

Reconnaissance Level Survey For:

SALINE COUNTY

Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory
2015

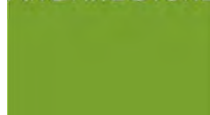
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Nebraska State Historical Society awarded the contract for the 2014-2015 Nebraska Historic Resource Survey and Inventory (NeHRSI) Reconnaissance Level survey and resurvey of Saline County to Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture Incorporated. The project included the evaluation of properties with respect to the NeSHPO planning document "Historic and Prehistoric Contexts in Nebraska: A Topical Listing," mapping, cataloging and photographing surveyed and resurveyed properties. Properties in downtown Crete were given special attention to determine whether a potential historic district existed. Additionally, the history and impact of Czech settlement throughout the county was studied and an effort was made to identify common folk buildings and landscapes associated with the Czech community.

SURVEY AREA DETAILS

- **Saline County** is located in southeast Nebraska
- This survey **systematically evaluated properties** within Saline County and was the first to address the history and impact of Czech settlement in the County.
- The survey area included a total of **576 square miles** of flat to gently rolling agricultural land and seven towns
- This survey reviewed a total of **5,773 properties**¹
 - **1,057** resources previously inventoried by NSHS
 - **17** resources previously **listed individually** on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - **2** resources previously **listed as historic districts** on the NRHP
- Resources in the survey area included
 - Buildings
 - Structures
 - Objects
 - Sites
- Property types in the survey area were mixed
 - Primarily agricultural and residential
 - Limited civic, industrial, recreational, educational and commercial

CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

This project is a Reconnaissance Level Survey, which is a visual review of all resources that can be seen from the public right-of-way within the survey area. Resources include buildings, structures, objects and sites. Those resources that appear to have historic or architectural significance are recorded in the survey inventory. The inventory consists of a database, a set of photographs and GIS mapping of locations of the resources.

Within the inventory, resources can be marked as active or inactive. Active resources are those which were added to the inventory as a result of this survey or which were previously surveyed and

¹ U.S. Census, American Fact Finder, 2010 Census

found to retain their historic integrity. Inactive resources are those that were previously surveyed and were found to be either non-extant or lacking in integrity.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **1,526** resources inventoried
- **21** recommended as individually potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- **2** proposed NRHP historic districts
- Planning recommendations
 - Enhanced Heritage Tourism
 - Development of CLGs
- Further Research
 - Wilber Bungalows

CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT

- **Chapter 1** summarizes chronologically the history of Saline County, Crete, DeWitt, Dorchester, Friend, Swanton, Tobias, Western, and Wilber
- **Chapter 2** provides a chronological history of Czech settlement in the county and discusses physical forms that reflect that settlement.
- **Chapter 3** explains the methods and processes used to conduct the field investigation, including limitations and biases.
- **Chapter 4** provides an analysis of the survey findings and a statistical summary of the survey results
- **Chapter 5** presents an annotated list of recommendations for resources to be listed individually or as a group on the National Register of Historic Places as well as recommendations for future planning efforts
- **Chapter 6** describes the NSHS, their programs and roles in local preservation efforts
- **Bibliography**
- **Appendix A** includes a list of resources in the survey area marked as active in the database
- **Appendix B** provides a glossary of terms used in this report

Within this report, surveyed resources are cross-referenced with their inventory numbers within the text.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to many people for their assistance during this project. This report could not have been completed without the additional efforts of those members of the public who attended the public meeting and/or offered information during the survey, Bob Puschendorf, Patrick Haynes, Ruben Acosta and David Murphy of the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, Judy Rada of the Saline County Historical Society, Verne Anthony of the Wilber Czech Museum as well as the staff of the Nebraska State Historical Society Library and Archives.

ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING

Survey projects are administered by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO), a division of the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS). This study is funded in part with the assistance of a federal grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. However, the contents and opinions expressed in this publication, do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i
Project Background	i
Survey Area Details	i
Clarification of Terms	i
Summary of Results and Recommendations	ii
Contents of this Report	ii
Acknowledgements	ii
Administration and Funding	ii
Table of Figures	9
Chapter 1: Historic Overview	13
Introduction	13
Saline County	14
Crete	33
DeWitt	51
Dorchester	57
Friend	63
Swanton	69
Tobias	77
Western	83
Wilber	87
Chapter 2: Czechs in Saline County	95
Introduction	95
Background	95
Settlement in Saline County	98

Architectural Manifestations of Czech Culture in Saline County	100
Residential	101
Religious.....	105
Cemeteries	109
Associations	114
Chapter 3: Survey Methodology	125
Objective	125
Survey Area	125
Methodology	125
Chapter 4: Resource Analysis	131
Results	131
Annotated Discussion of Survey Analysis	133
Chapter 5: Recommendations.....	151
Properties Previously Listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	151
Properties Potentially Individually Eligible for the NRHP.....	152
Properties Potentially Eligible as Historic Districts for the NRHP	157
Properties Potentially Eligible within Multiple Property Documents for the NRHP	158
Recommendations for Preservation Planning and Economic Development	159
Recommendations for Further Research	159
Chapter 6: Further Information.....	161
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO)	161
National Register of Historic Places	161
Certified Local Governments	162
Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (FHTC).....	162
Nebraska Historic Tax Credit (NHTC).....	163

Valuation Incentive Program (VIP)	164
Public Outreach and Education	164
Bibliography	165
Appendix A: Active Resources	175
Rural	175
Crete	178
Dorchester	187
DeWitt	188
Friend	190
Pleasant Hill	192
Swanton	192
Tobias	193
Western	194
Wilber	197
Appendix B: Glossary	203

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1: General Highway Map; Saline County; 2011.....	13
Figure 2: Western Trails through Nebraska.....	15
Figure 3: Rendering of Swan City.....	17
Figure 4: Railroad Advertisement.....	18
Figure 5: Rendering of Pleasant Hill during its time as the county seat.....	22
Figure 6: Population of Saline County.....	23
Figure 7: World War I Poster.....	25
Figure 8: Crete's City Hall, a WPA project, SA01-146.....	28
Figure 9: Crete Plat Map.....	33
Figure 10: Crete Population.....	34
Figure 11: 1328 Main Street (SA01-384).....	35
Figure 12: Gaylord Hall (SA01-007) & Boswell Observatory (SA01-009), Doane College campus.....	38
Figure 13: Judge W.H. Morris House (SA01-006) in the College Hill Neighborhood.....	39
Figure 14: Chautauqua octagonal office building (SA01-200).....	40
Figure 15: Otto Feeken's Mission-style Bungalow (SA01-374).....	44
Figure 16: 136-140 W. 13th Street.....	46
Figure 17: Ranch house, 1755 Ridgeway Court (SA01-356).....	47
Figure 18: DeWitt Plat Map.....	51
Figure 19: DeWitt Population.....	52
Figure 20: 204 York (SA02-043).....	53
Figure 21: South side of Fillmore between Concord and Quince (SA02-063).....	54
Figure 22: Dorchester Plat Map.....	57
Figure 23: Dorchester Population.....	58
Figure 24: Bank Building (SA03-025).....	59

Figure 25: 604 West 9 th Street (SA03-053)	60
Figure 26: 106 East 10 th Street (SA03-047)	61
Figure 27: Friend Plat Map	63
Figure 28: Friend Population	64
Figure 29: 127 & 131 Maple Street. Lusk Bro's and Johnson Building. Built 1887. (SA04-084) ...	65
Figure 30: 801 Maine Street. Built 1916. (SA04-075)	65
Figure 31: 303 1st Street. Built after 1933. (SA04-017).....	66
Figure 32: 508 2nd Street. Kahm's Garage. (SA04-080)	66
Figure 33: 501 Main Street. Friend Public School. (SA04-027)	67
Figure 34: Swanton Plat Map	69
Figure 35: Swanton Population	70
Figure 36: The west side of Main Street before the 1914 fire.	71
Figure 37: The west side of Main Street today. (SA06-028)	71
Figure 38: Yost Building (SA06-021)	72
Figure 39: 215 Main Street (SA06-030)	73
Figure 40: School Gymnasium (SA06-009).....	74
Figure 41: Tobias Plat Map.....	77
Figure 42: Population of Tobias.	78
Figure 43: The west side of Main Street in 1891, just before the fire.	79
Figure 44: South of 1 st Street on Main Street. (SA07-035)	81
Figure 45: North of 3 rd Street on Main. (SA07-045)	82
Figure 46: Western Plat Map	83
Figure 47: Population of Western.	84
Figure 48: Southwest corner of West and Sumner (SA08-067).....	85
Figure 49: Northwest corner of Sumner and Butler (SA08-032).....	85

Figure 50: Wilber Plat Map.....	87
Figure 51: Population of Wilber.....	88
Figure 52: William H Mann House (SA09-011)	89
Figure 53: 3 rd Street between Main and School (SA09-059)	90
Figure 54: 416 North School (SA09-089)	91
Figure 55: Sokol Pavilion (SA09-065)	93
Figure 56: Czech Settlement in Nebraska.....	96
Figure 57: Czech-language pamphlet produced by Burlington & Missouri Railroad Co.....	99
Figure 58: Stejskal Residence, Crete, NE (SA01-216)	102
Figure 59: Pospisil Residence, Wilber, NE (SA09-042)	103
Figure 60: St. Wenceslaus Church, , Wilber, NE (SA09-078)	106
Figure 61: St. Ludmilla's Catholic Church, Crete, NE	107
Figure 62: Czech Methodist Church in Crete	108
Figure 63: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Tobias, NE (SA07-021)	109
Figure 64: Blue Valley Cemetery, Ledger stones and headstones (SA00-143)	110
Figure 65: Bohemian National Cemetery (SA00-144)	111
Figure 66: Bohemian-Slavonian Cemetery (SA00-151).....	111
Figure 67: Example of a grave marker at Národní Hřbitov (SA00-055)	112
Figure 68: Národní Hřbitov (SA00-055)	112
Figure 69: Tvrz Cemetery (SA00-147)	113
Figure 70: Kasak Cemetery (SA00-174).....	114
Figure 71: Brush Creek Hall (SA00-010)	118
Figure 72: Crete Sokol (SA01-076)	118
Figure 73: Wilber Sokol Pavilion (SA09-065)	119
Figure 74: ZČBJ Quonset Hut in Tobias (SA07-033).....	121

Figure 75: Rad Tabor 74 (SA00-011)121

Figure 76: Saline Center (SA00-043)122

Figure 77: Saline County Survey Results by Division.....131

Figure 78: Saline County Survey Area Rural Results.132

Figure 79: Surveyed bungalows in Wilber160

CHAPTER 1: HISTORIC OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This re-survey focuses on historic resources in southeast Nebraska's Saline County. Saline County last underwent a survey of this scope in 1983; however, a report was not prepared in conjunction with the project. The following historical overview is an attempt to provide interested parties with a better understanding of Saline's overall appearance as well as the major events that impacted the county since the mid-1800s up to today. This overview also helps to explain the wide variety of historic resources found in the county.

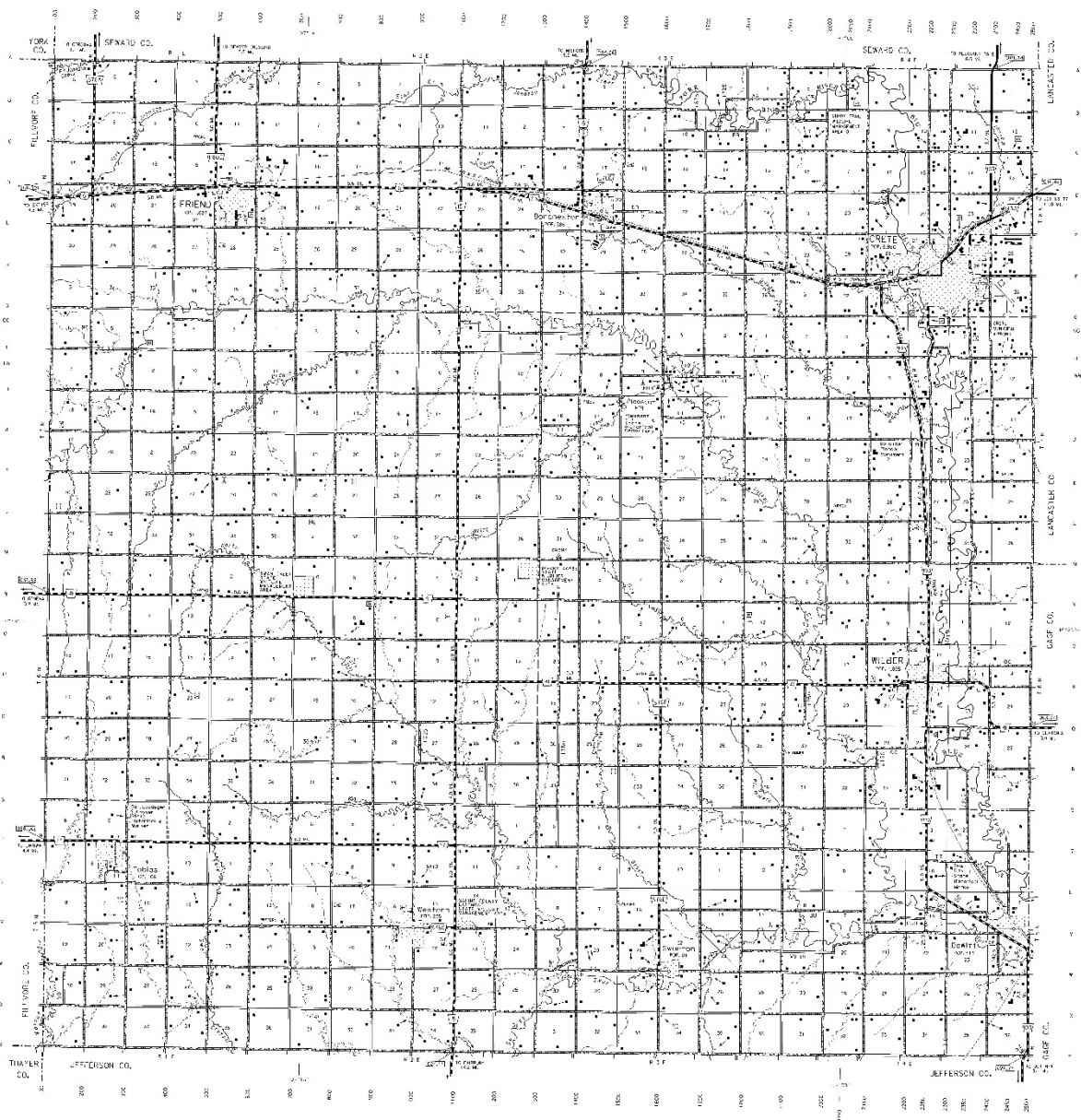


Figure 1: General Highway Map; Saline County; 2011.
(Source: Nebraska Department of Roads.)

SALINE COUNTY

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Saline County is a medium sized county in southeast Nebraska. Located approximately 25 miles from Lincoln, the state capital, Saline County is bound by Seward County on the north, Lancaster and Gage County on the east, Jefferson on the south, and Fillmore on the west. The total land area of the county is 576 square miles. Within its bounds, the county contains fertile black loam soil and numerous waterways, ideal features for the agricultural pursuits that make up the bulk of the area's economy, as well as the small amount of manufacturing that occurs here.¹ The Big Blue River, the most prominent waterway in the county, is situated at the eastern end of the county. Its West and North Forks meet up at the northern edge of the county line and the river then meanders south, leaving the county northeast of DeWitt. The other major waterways include Turkey Creek, Swan Creek, and their tributaries. Swan Creek flows into Turkey Creek northwest of DeWitt and then together they leave the county south of DeWitt.

The county is topographically diverse with four different physiographic regions within its boundaries. In the north, there are flat to rolling plains that stretch to the center of the county; in the east, valleys undulate along the Big Blue River, which give way to rolling hills at the northeast corner; and in the south and west, the land is defined by dissected plains.² In the late 1800s, the county was described as having a relative abundance of wooded areas, which could primarily be found within the river and stream valleys and included walnut, cottonwood, oak, ash, and box elder trees.³ The Swan Creek watershed is located in the midst of the dissected plains, within the Lower Big Blue River basin. Over the years, a handful of dams and the Swan Creek Reservoir have been built to assist with flood control efforts and to harness the water's power for manufacturing and irrigation purposes. The Swan Creek Reservoir has the additional benefit of providing a public recreation area for Saline and the surrounding counties.⁴

Because of its location so far from any large body of water, Saline County, and Nebraska in general, has a continental climate characterized by seasonal temperature extremes. Winters are cold and windy with frequent snowfall and an average temperature of 27 degrees. Summers are hot with bursts of cooler air blowing in from the north and an average temperature of 75 degrees. Rainfall is heaviest in the late spring and early summer. Annual precipitation is about 30 inches and typically aligns with the growing season for most crops.

¹ A.T. Andreas, editor. *History of the State of Nebraska* (Chicago, Illinois: Western Historical Co.), 1882, "Saline County"; United States Department of Agriculture, National Cooperative Soil Survey, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," October 1990, accessed May 6, 2015, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/nebraska/NE151/0/saline.pdf.

² United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska"; Bradley H. Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography* (Westview Press, 1985), 11-16.

³ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

⁴ *Nebraska Farmer*. "Watershed Structures Fulfilled Their Mission of Preventing Floods." June 18, 2013, accessed May 6, 2015, <http://farmprogress.com/story-watersheds-structures%20fulfilled-mission-preventing%20floods-9-99404>; Elmer A. Kral, "Wilber, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, ed. Jane Graff (Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988), accessed May 26, 2015. <http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/wilber/>.

Saline County is also subject to a variety of natural hazards. The presence of numerous waterways noted above has left many areas within its boundaries subject to flooding. Additionally, the county's continental climate has brought a clash of weather systems, leading to tornados, hail and blizzards. In fact, tornado activity in Saline County is above both the state and national averages.⁵

PRE-TERRITORIAL, 1804-1855

Spanish and French claims to the area that now comprises Nebraska date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. Although European powers made no major settlements in the Nebraska area during this time, European explorers and entrepreneurs did traverse the Missouri and sections of the eastern half of what became Nebraska in search of tribal trading partners.⁶ For centuries before the Europeans arrived, the general area that now comprises Nebraska was inhabited by a variety of Native American tribes whose presence was influenced by the fluctuations in climate. When moisture levels were plentiful, tribes such as the Pawnee and Arikaras would hunt and farm here. During long periods of drought, these groups would leave in search of greener pastures elsewhere.⁷ The Pawnee Indians were some of the earliest inhabitants of what became Saline County. They made use of the varied topography to hunt wild game, forage for fruit, and fish in the numerous waterways.⁸

After the acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Corps of Discovery Expedition of 1804, led by Merriweather Lewis and William Clark, made the first official U.S. visit to Nebraska, traveling along the Missouri River on their trek to the Pacific Coast.⁹ However, the author of *Nebraska: The*

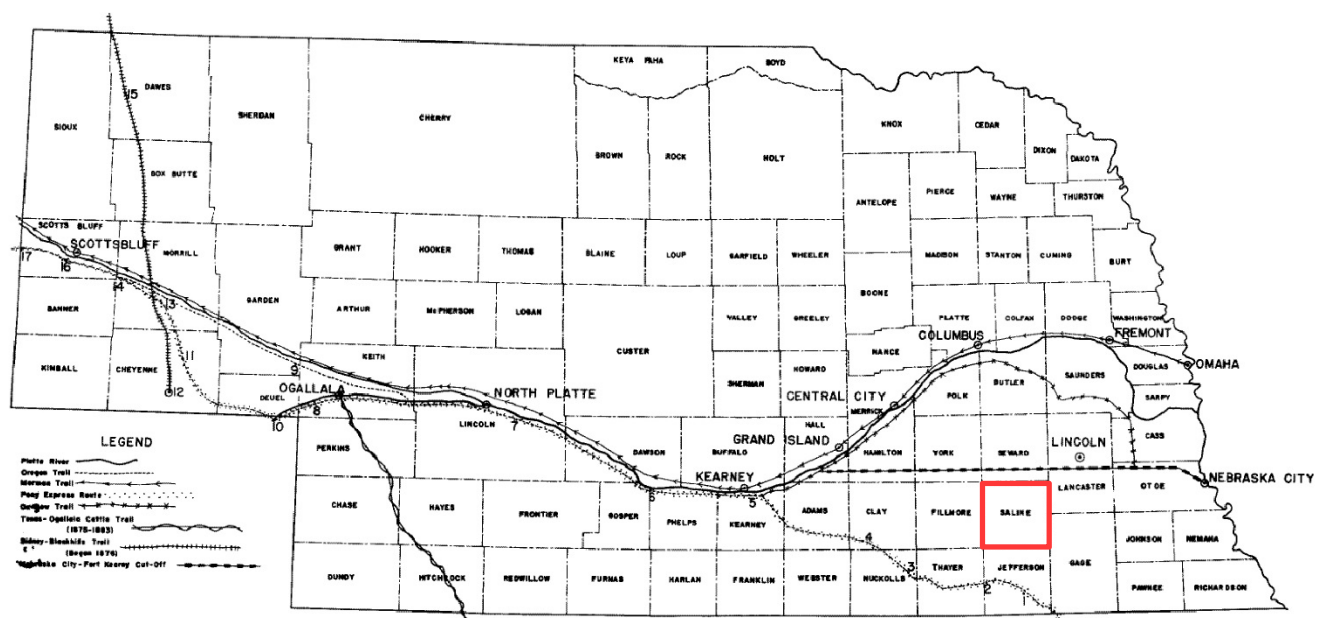


Figure 2: Western Trails through Nebraska.
(Source: NSHS. Highlighting by APMA 2015.)

⁵ City-Data.com, "Saline County, Nebraska," 2012, accessed May 6, 2015, http://www.city-data.com/county/Saline_County-NE.html; USA.com, "Saline County Natural Disasters and Weather Extremes," accessed May 6, 2015, <http://www.usa.com/saline-county-ne-natural-disasters-extremes.htm>.

⁶ Nebraska Legislature, *Nebraska Blue Book*, edited by Kate Heltzel, "History" (2014-2015), 61, accessed May 6, 2015. <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/bluebook/58-67.pdf>.

⁷ Ibid., 60.

⁸ United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska."

⁹ Nebraska Legislature, *Nebraska Blue Book*, "History," 60.

Cornhusker State notes that the U.S. government barred Euro-American settlement in the region from 1834 until the Nebraska Territory was established in 1854. Before this date, Euro-American settlement was restricted to military outposts at Fort Kearney, Fort Laramie and Bellevue.¹⁰

Early explorers and the overland routes that developed from their trail blazing typically followed the Missouri, Platte, and Little Blue River valleys, therefore bypassing Saline County. While the areas along the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails experienced development after the establishment of the Nebraska Territory in 1854, active permanent settlement of Saline County did not begin until the construction of rail lines through the area in the 1870s and 1880s.¹¹

TERRITORIAL PERIOD, 1854-1867

On May 30, 1854 the Kansas-Nebraska Act established the Nebraska territory and opened this area for settlement. Initially, many of the settlers were those immigrating further west from previously settled portions of the United States. Finding the states east of the Mississippi crowded, many were eager to take advantage of the newly opened area. They were soon followed by German, Swedish, Czech and Irish immigrants seeking a better life in the burgeoning United States.

In 1855, Nebraska's territorial legislature established ten counties within its boundaries, including Saline County. Survey work, which allowed for the conveyance of legal titles for land, commenced in 1856 and was completed one year later.¹² However, the county was not officially organized until February 18, 1867, less than a month before Nebraska was admitted to the Union.¹³

Multiple accounts exist for how Saline County received its appellation. While the accounts differ, all are in agreement that the name is tied to salt. In *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, author J.W. Kaura states that the county's name was chosen because "the land was near the Salt Basin on Salt Creek" while in his romanticized chronicle of Saline written in the late nineteenth century, A.T. Andreas states that the name was "applied to the county from a supposition that somewhere within its boundaries were to be found numerous extensive salt springs." Andreas goes on to note that no salt springs were ever discovered, but the name stuck.¹⁴

The first Euro-American settlers began to arrive in the late 1850s. Two of the earliest settlers, both of whom arrived in 1858, were E. Frink and Victor Vifquain. Vifquain went on to become a celebrated military hero while serving as a general in the Civil War and later acted as Adjutant General of Nebraska.¹⁵ He chose a spot in the northeast section of the county, close to the present day location of Crete. Frink settled along Turkey Creek near the present community of Pleasant Hill. Other settlers soon followed, including William Stanton, James Johnston, Jonas Gilbert, J.S. Hunt, John Tucker, Tobias Castor, Jesse C. Bickle, William Remington, and William Wall. These settlers typically

¹⁰ Ibid., 64.

¹¹ Legends of America, "Old West Legends: The California Trail - Rush to Gold," (2003), accessed May 6, 2015, <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-californiatrail.html>.

¹² J.W. Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858* (Dewitt, NE, 1962), 3-4; Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 45.

¹³ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County;" Nebraska State Historical Society, "Archives Record: Saline County, Nebraska," (1866-1991), accessed May 6, 2015. http://nebraskahistory.org/libarch/research/public/county_finding_aids/saline.pdf.

¹⁴ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County;" Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 4.

¹⁵ Nebraska State Historical Society, "Archives Record: Saline County, Nebraska."



Figure 3: Rendering of Swan City
(Source: <http://www.salinecountycourthouse.info/earlyhistory.html>)

established residences along the Big Blue River, close to the eastern county boundary.¹⁶ Some of these men would become known for their contributions to the early growth and success of the county.¹⁷

By 1860, the number of people living in the county totaled 39. Census records from 1860 show that a mere 30 of the county's 386,640 acres had been improved for farmland by this time. Another 450 acres had been set aside for farming but were not yet in active use. This was in contrast to Gage County, directly east of Saline, where 1,075 acres had been improved for farming purposes by 1860.¹⁸ In the 1860s, the agricultural pursuits that later came to be the economic driver for the county

were just in their infancy. Nothing grown on the 30 improved acres was yet being produced for sale, according to the 1860 census, although the county had produced 220 pounds of butter. This butter was likely being secured from the 41 milk cows present in the county. Other livestock included 15 horses, 20 oxen, and 12 other types of cattle.

Swan Creek, the first town in Saline County, was established in 1865.¹⁹ Located in the southeast portion of the county near a tributary of the same name, the town site was located on land claimed by three men: Thomas Freeman, William Remington, and T. Cline. Freeman opened the town's first store and Cline set up a saw mill.²⁰ A flouring mill was also built in that first year. The saw mill was the site of the first meeting of the county commissioners in 1866. Swan City was named the county seat in 1867, and retained that distinction until 1871.²¹ Pleasant Hill was established next, founded in 1867 near the confluence where Spring Creek merges with Turkey Creek.²²

Far from the preferred Overland Trail routes and the Missouri River, along which much of Nebraska's early settlement occurred, Saline County did not experience significant growth until after the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s. However, two events in the 1860s did help to attract some early pioneers to Saline County and other parts of Nebraska before the great migration of the 1870s. The first was the Homestead Act in 1862, which gave a settler title to 160 acres of land free of charge in exchange for building a home, working the soil, and living there five years. The second was the end of the Civil War in 1865. After the conflict ended, many veterans went west in search of work and to take advantage of the Homestead Act, or to use land warrants they had gained during previous wars. The

¹⁶ Robert R. Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*, in *Who's Who in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Press Association, 1940), accessed May 6, 2015, <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/resources/OLLibrary/who1940/co/saline1.htm>.

¹⁷ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

¹⁸ 1860 U.S. Census, Nebraska, Agriculture.

¹⁹ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 17.

²⁰ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

²¹ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 63-70.

²² Nebraska State Historical Society, "Pleasant Hill," last modified April 27, 2010, http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/markers/texts/pleasant_hill.htm.

population increase that occurred with this first small wave of migration was substantial enough to help to bolster the territory's population and propel Nebraska to statehood, which was granted on March 1st, 1867.²³

SIGNIFICANT SETTLEMENT AND EXPANSION, 1867-1890

Just as the Overland Trails helped to induce development at strategic points along their paths in the 1840s and 1850s, the railroad played a similar role in Nebraska soon after its arrival in July of 1865, when the Union Pacific laid the first rails in Omaha. For the United States generally, these lines across the plains represented the beginning of the transcontinental railroad west of the Missouri River. For Nebraska specifically, the arrival of the railroad heralded population growth and land development throughout much of the state, including Saline County.²⁴

The arrival of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad to Saline County in 1871 brought hundreds of new immigrants to Saline County.²⁵ In the 1870 census, the population of the county had reached 3,106. Just a decade later, despite a number of man-made and natural disasters that wreaked havoc on many settlers' livelihoods, the population had more than quadrupled. Word of mouth from friends

and family helped to bring some of these newcomers, while many of the rest came in response to the railroads prolific pamphlet campaigns and to advertisements in newspapers published back east and in Europe.²⁶ The railroads perhaps had the most at stake, needing to sell their federal land grants to generate capital necessary for the construction of their rail systems.

Saline County's first wave of settlement represented a mix of nationalities. While many were long time Easterners who had decided to try their fortune further west, a number were recent immigrants from Europe. Of this latter group, Scottish, Irish, German, and Czech natives dominated.²⁷ A large number of Czech immigrants settled in the southeast part of the county along the valleys of the Blue River, close to the town of Wilber, which is well known today for its association with Czech heritage.²⁸ While Nebraska in general received few black settlers before 1880, when the first large scale migration of blacks from the south occurred as part of the Exoduster Movement, Saline County did receive its first African American settler in 1867.²⁹ Henry Burden was born in Petersburg, West Virginia in the early 1840s

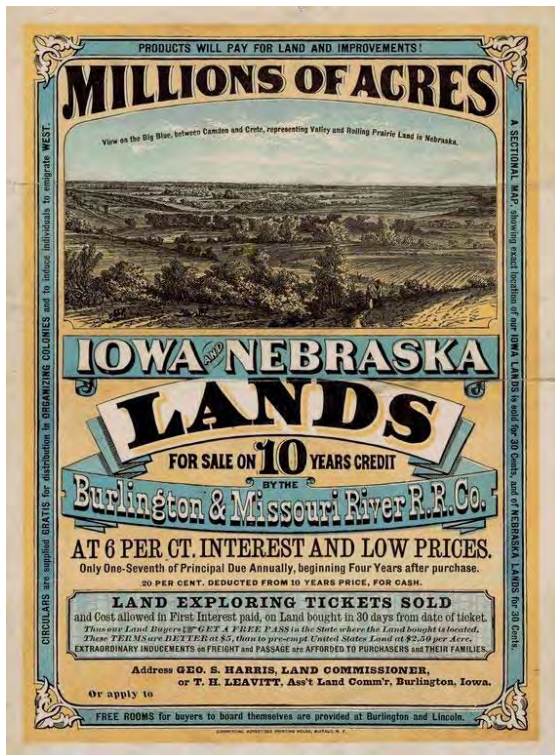


Figure 4: Railroad Advertisement
(Source: Library of Congress)

²³ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 45.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 55.

²⁵ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

²⁶ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 59.

²⁷ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 71-72; Nancy C. Curtis, *Black Heritage Sites: An African American Odyssey and Finder's Guide* (American Library Association Editions, 1996), 494.

and came north to fight for the Union after escaping from the Confederate Army. Following an honorable discharge from the Union Army in February 1866, Burden moved to Nebraska and filed a homestead claim two and a half miles south of Pleasant Hill, where he resided with his family until his death in 1895.³⁰

Homesteaders in the 1870s overcame both natural and manmade hardships. A devastating tornado hit in May of 1872, for which the County Commissioners temporarily appropriated \$500 worth of relief funds that were later rescinded for an unknown reason.³¹ The Easter Sunday Blizzard of 1873 was one of the worst recorded storms in the state's history. Striking in mid-April, rain gave way unexpectedly to snow and many settlers were unprepared for a storm that raged for four days and brought with it staggering snow drifts. The storm was most severe in east central Nebraska where Saline is located. In this region, 20 people and thousands of livestock died.³² Later that year, on October 14 a devastating prairie fire begun by careless immigrants camping along Swan Creek swept through the county from south to north, aided on by heavy winds.³³ A woman and four children perished after trying unsuccessfully to outrun the raging fire.³⁴

A short time later, a succession of grasshopper plagues swept across the upper Midwest. In 1874, 1875 and 1876 grasshoppers destroyed corn, wheat and oat crops, and anything else edible, across Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas. In Saline County, the entire corn crop was lost during the 1874 plague. Local farmers suffered little damage during the 1875 plague but the 1876 infestation again destroyed all crops. In 1874 and 1876, livestock feed had to be shipped in and many residents were forced to depend upon food assistance from the east to tide them through the winter. Many farmers lost everything during the plagues and returned east.³⁵ In the midst of the grasshopper infestation, on July 25, 1875, unprecedented flooding occurred along Turkey Creek that filled the waterway from "hill to hill," according to Kaura in *Saline County Nebraska History*.³⁶ Concurrently with these natural calamities, homesteaders were dealing with the repercussions of the national panic of 1873. It was never easy to obtain loans for agricultural endeavors during this era, but the financial crises also made it difficult to start a business in any of the small towns that were forming across the county.

Despite these hardships, immigrants continued to populate Saline County, settling farmsteads as well as the small towns that began to develop. By 1880 the population had reached 14,943 people – almost five times that of the previous decennial census. Paralleling the Big Blue River and snaking

³⁰ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 30-33.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 51.

³² Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*; Nebraska State Historical Society, "The Easter Blizzard of 1873," last modified June 4, 2004.

http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/markers/texts/easter_blizzard_of_1873.htm.

³³ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 15; Addison Erwin Sheldon. "History and Stories of Nebraska - The Prairie Fire," Accessed May 6, 2015,

<http://www.OLDTIMES.com/oldtimenebraska/ncsnyder/nbstory/story35.html>. Before much of the land was given over to cultivation in the late 1800s and 1900s, prairie fires like this one were a common occurrence on the Great Plains. In the spring and fall, vast expanses of dry grasses provided a ready fuel for fires started by man or lighting. Early settlers tried to prepare for the fires by creating fireguards around their homes and settlements, but sometimes tragedy struck despite these best efforts.

³⁴ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County: An American Adventure*, "Person Sheet: Melinda Neely."

³⁵ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*, last modified September 7, 2008, http://www.phillipsplace.net/genealogy/ps03/ps03_254.html.

³⁶ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 51.

across the north and south portions of the county, the railroad provided a connection to markets and goods for people who had previously had to travel far distances in order to secure basic commodities.

The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, later known as the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, was the first line to enter Saline County. This first rail line was part of a route running from Lincoln to Kearney that included three sites in the county set apart from one another at roughly 9 mile intervals.³⁷ The railroad surveyors followed a practice common to some railroad companies of the day and ascribed town names to these sites that followed an alphabetical order, lending them the distinction of "alphabet towns."³⁸ Crete was the third stop on the line, with rails arriving there on June 12, 1871. The route then moved west, first to Dorchester and then to Friend before advancing into Fillmore County.³⁹

Later in 1871, the Omaha and Southwestern Railroad, a subsidiary of the Burlington, decided to build a line at the east end of the county following the route of the Big Blue River. This north-south line connected Crete to Beatrice by December 22, 1871 and then moved further south to Wymore, Nebraska where it met up with a line traveling west to Denver. The railroad declared Wilber and DeWitt as station towns along this route.⁴⁰ An additional site between Crete and Wilber was also set aside and called Shestak in honor of Bohemian immigrant Václav Šesták. Shestak appears to have been short-lived and no traces of it remain today.⁴¹ Thirteen years later, in 1884, the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad, another subsidiary of the Burlington, built a road from DeWitt west to Cheyenne, Wyoming. The town sites laid along the route in Saline County, from east to west, were Swanton, Western and Tobias.

The towns that emerged along these three railroad lines thrived, benefiting from the influx of people and accessibility to goods provided by the trains. Almost immediately after the rail lines went in, or sometimes in conjunction with their construction, enterprising pioneers opened up general merchandise stores, drug stores and hotels. Grain elevators went up close to the railroad tracks, a temporary holding point for crops before they were shipped off to various destinations. Crete, the largest of Saline County's towns in the late nineteenth century, had three grain elevators by 1882 and was shipping thousands of bushels of grain annually. Some of the grain here and in other towns was ground down into flour before it was shipped, at mills built along the Big Blue River and its tributaries. And of course residences were constructed to house all the people streaming into the towns on the railroad. These early buildings went up quickly and were typically of frame construction. As a result, many towns experienced problems with fires in their early days. DeWitt in particular

³⁷ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*; Everts and Kirk, *The Official State Atlas of Nebraska*, "Saline County," (Philadelphia: Everts and Kirk, 1885).

³⁸ Baltensperger, *Nebraska, A Geography*, 60; Jan Stehlik, "Dorchester, Saline County," & Alice Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff. Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988, accessed May 26, 2015. <http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/>.

³⁹ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*; Everts and Kirk, *The Official State Atlas of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

⁴⁰ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*.

⁴¹ Lilian Linder Fitzgerald. "Nebraska Place Names." *University of Nebraska Studies in Language, Literature, and Criticism*. Paper 1 (1925), 123, accessed May 6, 2015, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=englishunl>.

suffered serious blows at the hands of fires in the late 1870s, starting with much of its downtown core, then a nearby mill, and then a grain elevator burning to the ground in a yearly succession.⁴²

So many new immigrants came to Saline as a result of the railroad that many in search of available farm land were limited to the center or west side of the county, far from the towns and settlements.⁴³ Crete and Tobias received additional rails in the late 1880s. In 1887, a line constructed by the Kansas City and Omaha Railroad to connect Fairmont to a junction point south of Fairbury included a stop in Tobias. Tobias then benefited from east-west and north-south lines. The next year the Missouri Pacific Railroad completed a branch line from Auburn, 10 miles west of the Missouri River, to Crete.⁴⁴

While the railroads helped to transfer people and goods along fixed routes, roads allowed for an even greater distribution of settlers and commodities across counties like Saline. Unlike the trails of the previous era, these roads were primarily laid out in neat segments corresponding to the straight section lines drawn up by the surveyors in the 1850s. Following an act by the state legislature, the Saline County Commissioners adopted a resolution on April 7, 1874 declaring that all section lines be designated public roads.⁴⁵

At the same time that improved transportation routes began bringing settlers and economic investment into the county, a dispute commenced that pitted many of the burgeoning towns against one another in a 71-year fight over the location of the county seat. Bradley H. Baltensperger notes that such disputes “were the wars of frontier Nebraska,” representing one of the few ways that places could distinguish themselves when securing a higher honor like the state capitol or a state university failed.⁴⁶ In June of 1871, an election to vote on the county seat’s location pitted Crete, Pleasant Hill, and Dorchester against one another. Pleasant Hill won the election.⁴⁷

Pleasant Hill may have emerged triumphant because of its somewhat central location, but when the rail lines bypassed it for sites further north and west at around this same time, it lost any sense of being easily accessible. Shortly thereafter many disgruntled county citizens expressed a desire to see the seat reassigned. However, a five year period was required before the county seat location could be voted on again. In November 1877 the effort was revived, an election was held, and Crete and Wilber rose to the top. Wilber won a majority vote and the county records and treasury from the old county seat were thereafter transported to its new location along the Big Blue River and the Omaha and Southwestern Railroad.⁴⁸ Though it may have seemed resolved by this point, the county seat dispute between Wilber and Crete re-emerged one last time over 40 years later when the need for a new courthouse arose.⁴⁹

Typical of towns defeated in county seat battles and located far from advantageous transportation routes, both Swan City and Pleasant Hill failed to thrive after each lost the county seat.⁵⁰ Many of Swan City’s buildings were moved to DeWitt, Wilber, or nearby farms so that no traces of the village

⁴² Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, “Saline County.”

⁴³ Hastings, *Who’s Who in Saline County*.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 33.

⁴⁶ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 59-60.

⁴⁷ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 147-148.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 148-150; Hastings, *Who’s Who in Saline County*.

⁴⁹ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 152-154.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 18-22, 83; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, “Saline County.”

remain today.⁵¹ Pleasant Hill fared better, reaching its peak population of 246 in 1900, 22 years after losing the county seat. At its height, the village boasted a general store, post office, sawmill and gristmill. However, the burning of the gristmill in 1930, coupled with the loss of the county seat and the village's distance from a rail line, led to Pleasant Hill's decline.⁵² Today only a handful of buildings, including several residences, a school and one commercial building remain as indicators of this once promising young village.

One more natural disaster hit the county in the 1880s, the great blizzard of 1888. Also known as the "Children's Blizzard" because it caught many children at school, the blizzard swept across Montana and Wyoming before hitting eastern Nebraska and the Dakotas in the early afternoon of January 12th. No lives were lost in Saline County, although elsewhere in the state the blizzard killed numerous people and livestock, who were caught unprepared for such a devastating snow storm.⁵³

DEVELOPMENT, 1890-1930

By 1890 the population for Saline County had reached 20,097. The county now had a total of 2,318 farms within its bounds. Farm sizes averaged 149 acres, slightly higher than the national average of 136.5 acres.⁵⁴ Combined the farms utilized a total of 310,256 improved acres and 36,107 unimproved acres, nearly 90 percent of the total land area within the county.⁵⁵ More than half of the farmable land was given over to the production of corn (134,851 acres) and oats (37,956 acres).⁵⁶

The 1890 census was a peak year for Saline, showing the county at its most populated. In the succeeding decade, the population declined by 9.2%. Thereafter the population would continue to decline, undulating at times but never rising at the rate it had during the early years of settlement. The sharp decrease in population between 1890 and 1900 can be attributed to the double calamity of a state-wide drought and a national financial panic. Charles H. Morrill, a prominent Nebraska farmer, businessman, and banker, as well as the namesake for Morrill County, later recalled, "In the year 1893 crops in Nebraska were almost completely destroyed by drought and hot winds. Then came the panic and financial stress, which paralyzed business."⁵⁷ Bad weather and depression continued into the next year. In 1895, the crops survived but "confidence in Nebraska real estate was gone," causing many farms to go under. Within urban areas, businesses failed and people lost their homes.⁵⁸ The village of Dorchester lost 28 businesses during this time, although its population remained



Figure 5: Rendering of Pleasant Hill during its time as the county seat
(Source: <http://www.salinecountycourthouse.info/courthousehistory.html>)

⁵¹ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 22.

⁵² Nebraska State Historical Society, "Pleasant Hill."

⁵³ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 51.

⁵⁴ 1890 U.S. Census Bureau, Saline County, Nebraska; 1900 U.S. Census Bureau, Saline County, Nebraska.

⁵⁵ 1890 U.S. Census Bureau, Saline County, Nebraska.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ Nebraska State Historical Society, "Drought and Depression in 1890s Nebraska," last modified March 2010, [http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/timeline/drought depression.htm](http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/timeline/drought%20depression.htm).

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

relatively stable.⁵⁹ The financial depression finally came to an end in 1897 and things began to pick up again in 1898.

As with the grasshopper plagues of the 1870s, the difficulties of the 1890s proved too much for some of Nebraska's recent immigrants and they moved out of the state in search of a better life elsewhere.⁶⁰ By 1900 Nebraska's population as a whole was able to recover somewhat from these losses. Saline County's population, however, had declined to 18,252. The county lost 89 farms compared to the previous decade, with a total now of 2,229. However, the average farm size had grown to 162.4 acres.

By the 1900s, cereal grain⁶¹ production reigned supreme in Saline County, both in terms of acreage devoted to grains and output. Corn continued to be the dominant crop, occupying 35,000 more acres than it had in the previous decade. Acreage for oats had also increased, and grain production in general far outnumbered many other counties in Nebraska. In comparison to the large amount of acreage devoted to grain production, vegetables were far less consequential in the county. Of the vegetables listed in the decennial census for 1900, potatoes commanded the most land at 1,472 acres. It is interesting to note that although Saline County had only 4 acres dedicated to tobacco, yielding 1,140 pounds, it produced more tobacco than any other county in the state.

At the same time, dairy production was important in Saline County, with 2,074 farms taking part in some manner. Dairy cows produced over 3 million gallons of milk, of which 500,000 gallons were sold. Much of the milk not sold in its unaltered state became cream and butter, of which the county sold over 22,000 gallons and just under 400,000 pounds respectively.⁶² The high amount of butter

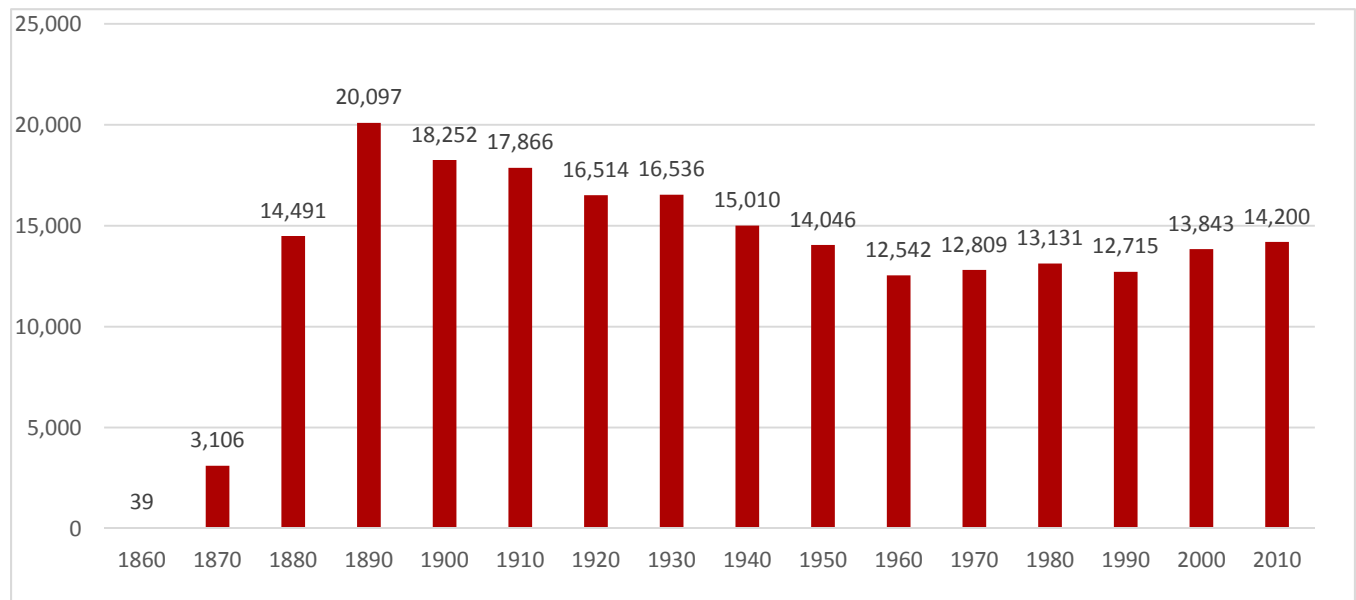


Figure 6: Population of Saline County.
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA, 2015.)

⁵⁹ Stehlik, "Dorchester, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁶⁰ Nebraska State Historical Society, "Drought and Depression in 1890s Nebraska."

⁶¹ Cereal grains include corn, rice, wheat, barley, sorghum, millet, oats, rye and others.

⁶² 1900 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

and cream produced in the county can be attributed, at least in part, to the presence of the Blue Valley Creamery, which later became the Fairmont Creamery, in Crete.⁶³ Chickens and hogs could also be found in large numbers in the county. In 1899 Saline ranked second in egg production in the entire state, after nearby Lancaster County. The county also produced a significant amount of sorghum syrup, 7,100 gallons. This amount was well above what could be obtained from the 158 acres devoted to sorghum, so it is likely that sorghum was shipped in and produced in a factory somewhere in the county.⁶⁴

After the sharp decline of the 1890s, Saline County continued to lose some population between 1900 and 1910, although not as drastically as in the previous decade. By 1910 the population had fallen to 17,866 residents, a loss of 2.1%. The number of farms had decreased by 24, to 2,205. The average size of farms had also slightly decreased, to 162.1 acres. An article in *The Nebraska Farmer* from 1914 noted that these downward trends afflicted 21 counties throughout Nebraska during this same period, most of them located in eastern part of the state. The article attributes this population loss to land price increases that were well above crop price increases, which forced farmers to sell out and seek out cheaper land or a different occupation elsewhere.⁶⁵

At the turn of the twentieth century, Saline County's citizens depended upon the railroad for moving people and goods. Unpaved roads and trails cut through much of the rest of the county so that farmers and others living in the more rural areas could get themselves and their commodities to and from the railroad. These roads frequently became impassable during the rainy season, causing farmers particular hardship and a significant loss of income when crops spoiled or were undervalued due to market glut after the roads dried. This same situation was present throughout the United States in the days before the automobile became widely available, which led to the improvement and construction of more roads in the 1910s and 1920s. The first transcontinental highway, the Lincoln Highway, was little more than a series of dirt roads when first designated in 1913. As bicycles became popular and mass production reduced the price of cars and trucks, more people began driving and clamoring for better roads. Building good roads, and more of them soon went from being a local matter to a state and national concern.⁶⁶

In 1913, Congress passed the Post Office Department Appropriations Bill for 1913. It was meant to address in part a debate that had developed between farmers interested in more local farm to market roads and motorist groups and dealerships who were interested in interstate travel. To address both concerns, the government offered an experimental funding program for roads used in postal delivery, and a study of the issues that would be involved with providing interstate travel. Soon a network of locally improved named highways developed, crisscrossing the nation. Adding to these were other locally improved roads, which were partially funded in some cases by the assistance of the 1916 Federal Aid Road Act. This act offered 30%-50% of federal funding for improving rural post delivery

⁶³ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County."

⁶⁴ 1900 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁶⁵ *The Nebraska Farmer*, "Prosperity and Population," 56 (May 27, 1914): 597, accessed May 6, 2015, <https://books.google.com>.

⁶⁶ George E. Koster, *A Story of Highway Development in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Department of Roads, 1997), 1-18, accessed May 18, 2015. <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/history/docs/history-general.pdf>. Ibid.

route roads.⁶⁷ In Nebraska, highway construction began in earnest in the late 1910s after World War I illustrated the need for better roads as a means to get commodities to market. A plan in 1917 called for a state highway system connecting all of the county seats with approximately 5,000 miles of road.⁶⁸

Saline County appears to have been overlooked while much of this early road construction was underway. The county did not receive its first major arterial, Nebraska Highway 15, until 1925, likely due primarily to the county's small population size.⁶⁹ When a highway did finally come, it did not actually run through the county seat, or any town for that matter, as it traveled north-south near the center of the county, essentially leading to and from no major destinations. The highway's location does, however, follow a regular span of distance at which these north-south routes were laid, including more frequently traveled north-south routes.

Over the course of the 1910s, Saline County's population continued to decline, dropping by 7.2% between 1910 and 1920. In the 1920 decennial census, the county had 16,514 citizens living within its boundaries. Agriculturally, the county's quantity of farms continued to decline, with 2,070 farms present in 1920. However, the average farm size had once again increased, to 171.5 acres. This continued population decline in Saline County occurred at a time when the state as a whole was in the midst of a population increase of 8.7%. It may be attributed to a number of factors, including low, undependable prices for farm products that could not compete with swelling land prices; increased mechanization on farms that required less laborers; a national trend toward urbanization; and the onset of World War I, when some of the county's people may have moved to the urban areas to assist with the war efforts or left to fight in the war.⁷⁰

With World War I breaking out in the last years of the decade, efforts in agricultural communities such as those in Saline County first turned to generating additional crops to be sold to the Allied powers; then to feeding the country's own troops as the United States entered the war in 1917. The government took over control of certain industries, such as the railroads, and instituted strict controls for others, such as food producers.⁷¹ During the war, the Zwonechek and Aksamit Mill in Wilber was given over to government control.⁷² Voluntary cooperation was also sought through such groups as a volunteer food conservation program organized by President Woodrow Wilson that advocated for

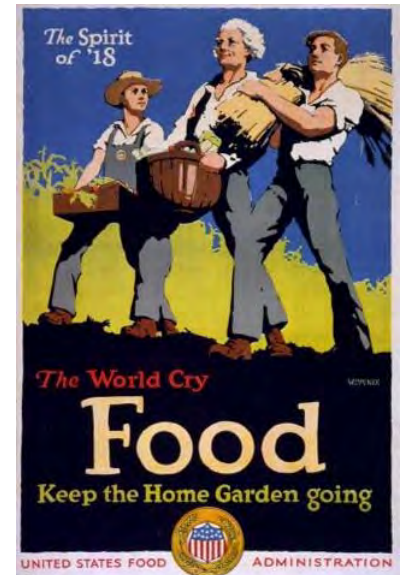


Figure 7: World War I Poster. (Source: William Benton Museum of Art)

⁶⁷ Richard F. Weingroff, "Federal Aid Road Act of 1916: Building the Foundation," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/96summer/p96su2.cfm>

⁶⁸ Koster, *A Story of Highway Development in Nebraska*, 16-18.

⁶⁹ Jesse Whidden, "Nebraska State Highways 11-20," last modified September 18, 2002, <http://www.nebraskaroads.com/roads/nebroutes/11-20.html#15>.

⁷⁰ 1910 and 1920 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture; David Ward, "Population Growth, Migration, and Urbanization," in *North America: The Historical Geography of a Changing Continent*, ed. Thomas F. McIlwraith et al. (Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2001), 394.

⁷¹ EH. Net, "U.S. Economy in World War I," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://eh.net/encyclopedia/u-s-economy-in-world-war-i/>.

⁷² Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*.

food consumption consciousness with “meatless” and “wheatless” days. Such efforts helped to convince Americans to reduce their food consumption by 15%. With good weather and high market prices, many farmers expanded, increasing both their land and their heavy equipment; “borrowing from banks prodigal with credit, [and] mortgaging their holding to the hilt.”⁷³ By the end of the war food exports had tripled and many American farmers were heavily in debt. Investment in farms and the expectations that prices would remain high met harsh economic realities after the war.

The glut of food products, the discontinuation of a substantial foreign market and the return of the labor force at the end of World War I worked together to create a national recession in 1921. Aiding the recession was the sharp rise in interest rates by the Federal Land Banks, which provided many of the loans farmers used during the war years. Nationally, the price of food products fell 50-70% and land prices began a freefall. By the time the economy picked back up in 1923, the United States had learned many lessons that would be applied after World War II.⁷⁴

Locally, farming in Saline County in the 1920s remained a somewhat varied operation with cereal crops continuing to dominate the landscape. However, corn had given way to wheat as the dominant crop, with 104,034 acres now devoted to wheat and just 85,364 acres to corn. Dairy and egg production remained important with the numbers of dairy cows and chickens surging well above their 1900 numbers. The number of beef cattle and sheep also increased, while hog ownership decreased by nearly half.

During World War I, road development had been put on hold due to material and labor shortages. The war made clear, however, that there was a need to supplement the railroad system. To address the previous debate over local versus interstate roads and to rectify the poor condition of many roads, the Federal Highway Act of 1921 was passed, which provided limited Federal Aid to 7% of the highways in each state that were designated as part of the Federal Highway Program.⁷⁵ By 1923, the participating highways in each state had been designated, and in 1926, a national numbering system was adopted to ease interstate navigation by providing the same route number for the length of the road. The 1920s became the golden age of road building and by the end of the decade trucks were a serious rival to railroads for interstate shipping.⁷⁶

Only one numbered Federal Highway, U.S. Highway 6, passes through Saline County, and it did not arrive until 1932. However, the county did receive its first state highways in the 1920s, Nebraska Highways 15, 33, and 41. Highway 15, designated in 1925, zigzags 206 miles south to north, joining with state and federal highways as it ascends from Kansas to South Dakota. It enters Saline County south of Western and then travels due north before joining with U.S. Highway 6 west of Dorchester for about 10 miles.⁷⁷ The next year Highways 33 and 41 were designated. Highway 33 runs east-west for only 25.6 miles in the southwest portion of Nebraska. The road’s western terminus is a point west of Dorchester, where it meets up with U.S. Highway 6, and its eastern terminus is in Lancaster

⁷³ Nancy Capace, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Nebraska* (St. Clair Shores, MI: Somerset Publishers, 1999), 70.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Richard F. Weingroff. “From 1916 to 1939: The Federal-State Partnership at Work,” accessed April 6, 2015. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/96summer/p96su7.cfm>.

⁷⁶ National Park Service. “Route 66: 1926 – 1945,” Vers, adapted from Route 66 Special Resource Study and Route 66 Corridor National Historic Context, n.d., accessed April 6, 2015. http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/route66/Route66_1926_to_1945.html.

⁷⁷ Whidden, “Nebraska State Highways 11-20.”

County, near the village of Roca, where it joins with U.S. Highway 77. Within Saline County, Highway 33 passes through Dorchester and Crete.⁷⁸ Highway 41 stretches west-east 103 miles from Clay County to Johnson County. It enters near the center of Saline County from the west and runs east, meeting up briefly with Highway 15, before branching off two miles south, and becoming its own road again. The highway crosses with Highway 103 at Wilber and then dives to the south briefly before entering Gage County from the west.⁷⁹ Initially, none of these were paved, they would have either had a gravel or dirt surface.⁸⁰

By the end of the 1920s, the population in Saline County rose slightly to 16,536 residents, a .1% increase. The total number of farms by 1930 had also risen, to 2,087. Average farm acreage increased slightly also, to 174.8 acres.⁸¹ The first year of the 1930s still held a lot of promise for farmers in Saline County and throughout Nebraska. In the years thereafter, rainfall began to decrease significantly, creating a drought that burdened farmers with low crop yields in addition to the hardships they and their fellow citizens suffered as a result of the stock market crash in 1929.⁸²

THE GREAT DEPRESSION, 1929-1941

Immediately after the stock market crash, many, including President Herbert Hoover, believed the economy would soon be back up and running smoothly. However, as the problem persisted and spread throughout the United States, impacting farmers and city dwellers alike, the government realized there was a need for bureaucratic intervention in order to improve the economy. Thereafter, Hoover and his successor, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, instituted a number of programs, headed by newly established government agencies, in an effort to improve the economy.

At the time, the country lacked such mechanisms as a credit system that adequately addressed the needs of farmers and ranchers. On March 27, 1933, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6084 and created the Farm Credit Administration (FCA) with the hope of finally reconciling the credit system for farmers and ranchers in this country with the cyclical nature of farming. Divided into 12 oversight districts, the FCA headquarters for the Eighth District was located in Omaha. The FCA consolidated the administration of previous programs and created a cooperative bank system that was initially backed by federal funds and slowly bought out by participating farmers, giving them a stake in its success. This bank could provide credit for all types of agricultural activities with the cyclical nature of farming activities, including long term real estate loans, short intermediate term credit, and credit for farmers' cooperatives.

As financial issues improved, the weather turned against farmers and production became more difficult. Many still lost their farms or could no longer make a profit from their land. For these people, the federal government developed several New Deal programs aimed to raise farm prices and improve the soil.

⁷⁸ Jesse Whidden, "Nebraska State Highways 21-40," last modified July 18, 2003, <http://www.nebraskaroads.com/roads/nebroutes/21-40.html#33>.

⁷⁹ Jesse Whidden, "Nebraska State Highways 41-60," last modified August 20, 2002, <http://www.nebraskaroads.com/roads/nebroutes/41-60.html#41>.

⁸⁰ Koster, *A Story of Highway Development in Nebraska*, 26.

⁸¹ 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁸² James C. Olson and Ronald C. Naugle, *History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), 310.



Figure 8: Crete's City Hall, a WPA project, SA01-146
(Source: APMA, 2015)

The worst year of the Dust Bowl in Nebraska was 1934. The state received only 14.5 inches of rainfall,⁸³ causing crop production to drop off noticeably and forcing many farmers out of business.⁸⁴ In Saline County, 93% of the county's farms reported crop failure in 1934. This is in sharp contrast to the beginning and end of the decade, when roughly 1% of

farms experienced such difficulties. Interestingly, the number of farms in Saline County actually rose by 101 in the middle of the 1930s. However, this rise in farm numbers at mid-decade coincided with a slight decrease in average farm size, 165 acres, as compared to either the 1930s or 1940s. One reason for the increase in the quantity of farms in 1935 may have to do with the fact that on the farms, values for everything from machinery to buildings to the land itself declined steeply between 1930 and 1940. Decline in values resulted in farmers selling off what they could, including parts of their farms, to make payments on bills. In 1930 the county's farmland demanded some of the highest prices in the state, with a total value of over \$44 million. Ten years later, farmers would be lucky to get even half of what they could for their land in 1930, with a total value at that point of just over \$22 million.⁸⁵

In villages, towns and cities throughout the country, banks failed, businesses closed and people lost their homes. Saline County's more urban population agonized right alongside the rest of the nation. President Roosevelt's public work relief projects, under the umbrella of the New Deal, helped bring work to many of the able-bodied unemployed. Projects overseen by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public Works Administration (PWA) improved the lives of those they employed while at the same time benefiting the places in which the projects occurred. In Saline County, New Deal Work Relief projects included a swimming pool in Wilber; Crete's City Hall and Elementary School; an auditorium in DeWitt; street paving, sewer system installation, and the creation of a park in Dorchester; and the construction of at least one bridge in the rural part of the county.⁸⁶

Despite government attempts to assist the population, by the end of the decade, Saline County had lost more farms than it had gained in the 1920s, reducing farm numbers to 2,057 and increasing farm size to 173.5 acres in the 1940 decennial census. The population made its most significant drop since 1900, falling by 9.2% to 15,010 residents. Of those that remained, the Depression caused more movement away from the rural areas (defined by the census as any city with less than 2,500 residents) and into Crete, the only city with more than 2,500 residents. In the 1930 decennial census

⁸³ On average, Saline County typically receives 30 inches of rainfall. United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," 2.

⁸⁴ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 3-5.

⁸⁵ 1940 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁸⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Listing, New Deal Work Relief Projects in Nebraska, National Register # 64501098.

Saline's urban residents accounted for 17.5% of the total population. By 1940, the number had risen to 20.2%, not a significant gain, but notable nonetheless because in the decades after World War II the rural farming population would continue to slowly decrease as a result of factors such as escalating mechanization and the spread of industrialized agriculture, which made the business more efficient and less labor intensive.

WORLD WAR II AND THE GOLDEN ERA OF CAPITALISM, 1941-1970

During the war, residents that did not leave for service made their own contributions to the war effort here at home. Many rural residents focused on maintaining crop production to feed the troops, the country's allies and its citizens, which in turn brought prosperity to many farmers. In addition, rural and urban residents participated in a variety of service organizations and efforts, including scrap drives and Victory Gardens.

In the 1940s and 1950s, Saline County experienced a number of improvements that benefited its population, decreased rural isolation and made people's homes more comfortable. Gravel was added to Highways 6 and 33, along with the select roads, including rural mail routes. Just after the war, rural electrification was completed, giving farmsteads access to electric lights, radios, washers and dryers, air conditioners, electric irons and other items that made life easier and more comfortable. Dial telephones reached the county's towns by the 1950s.⁸⁷ Despite these improvements, the county population grew little during these decades.

The suburban housing boom that followed World War II did not impact Saline County as it did other parts of the state because rather than gain population in the post-war years, the county lost many of its residents. Crete was the only town in Saline to gain a noticeable quantity of post-war housing, which can be accounted for by the 654 people who moved there between 1940 and 1950. Between 1940 and 1950, the county as a whole lost 6.4% of its residents and between 1950 and 1960 an additional 10.7% of its residents left. A lack of viable job opportunities, particularly in the agricultural sector, was a likely impetus for many who left in this period.

In the post-war period, Saline County's agricultural landscape continued to follow the national trend of fewer, larger farms. The growing size and increased mechanization of farms in the post-war period incited many younger farm people to seek out employment at manufacturing plants and other businesses in Crete and DeWitt.⁸⁸ Those who could not find jobs within the county left altogether to seek employment in Lincoln or farther afield. Average farm size increased to 231 acres by 1960 and to 280 acres by 1970, meaning that between 1940 and 1970 farms in Saline County typically grew by 61%.⁸⁹ High farm profits during the 1940s allowed more farmers to replace their long dependable draft horses with more expensive, but also more efficient, tractors. Realizing the advantages of the tractor, farmers began to seek out other machines that could make their jobs easier and less dependent upon somewhat unreliable labor pools.⁹⁰ Baltensperger points out that the high purchase price for these machines often only made sense if farmers had more land to use them on. In this way "mechanization fueled expansion just as expansion made mechanization more necessary." In

⁸⁷ Stehlik, "Dorchester, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁸⁸ United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," 3; Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 87.

⁸⁹ 1940, 1964, & 1969 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁹⁰ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 177-179.

turn land prices pushed upward as more farmers sought out an increasingly finite amount of acreage.⁹¹

As mechanization allowed farms to grow larger, irrigation greatly impacted the types of crops grown on the land. In 1940, Saline County had just five irrigation wells and a small amount of irrigated land. By 1960, the county boasted 244 registered irrigation wells and 18,000 acres of irrigated land.⁹² By the mid-1960s, farmers were devoting less acreage to corn, wheat, and oats, and more to sorghum, soybeans, and dryland grain. As for livestock, the number of cattle, hogs, and sheep roughly doubled while the number of dairy cows decreased by 71% and the number of chickens decreased by 26%.⁹³

An additional change to Saline County's agricultural landscape by the close of the 1960s was a slight reduction in overall land devoted to farming pursuits, a trend that became more pronounced as the years advanced. Whereas 97% of land was devoted to farms in 1940, 95% of land was used for the same purposes in 1970. At the same time, land values had increased dramatically. Land that could be had for \$62.93 an acre in 1940 commanded \$286 an acre in 1970.⁹⁴ Despite the presence of a drought that began to impact the state in 1963, and lasted until 1977, reports of crop failure were half of what they had been in 1940, thanks in large part to the increased use of irrigation, as well as fertilizers that kept more pests at bay.⁹⁵

1970-PRESENT

As the 1970s dawned, Saline County benefitted from an increase in population, better connections to major roads, and new employment opportunities. In 1974, construction of the Nebraska section of Interstate 80 was completed, making Nebraska the first state to complete its portion of the east-west route of the Interstate System, which had been designated in 1959. Although the idea and funding for interstate highways had been shared between the Federal government and the states since 1944, the bill authorized by President Eisenhower in 1956 set a timetable for the completion of the system, substantially increased the Federal portion of the funding and set up a trust for funding the work.⁹⁶

Though Interstate-80 does not run through Saline County, it was advantageously sited less than 15 miles from the county's northern edge. Transportation routes like this one made possible the easy movement of people and goods across a much greater network than allowed for by the railroad and increased the opportunity for the decentralization of manufacturing. Rather than concentrating in a large city like Omaha, which boasted 52% of all manufacturing activity in the state in 1958, manufacturers could now move their plants to more rural areas where labor costs were cheaper but skill level and work ethic were believed to be superior. Relatively low energy costs also helped drive

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," 3.

⁹³ 1940 & 1964 U.S. Census Bureau, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁹⁴ 1964, & 1969 U.S. Census Bureau, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁹⁵ R.W. Paulson, E.B. Chase, R.S. Roberts and D.W. Moody, "National Water Summary 1988-89: Hydrological Events and Floods and Droughts" *Water Supply Paper* 2375 (1991): 377; 1940 & 1964 U.S. Census Bureau, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

⁹⁶ Koster, *A Story of Highway Development in Nebraska*, 62-78.

manufacturers to rural areas. The new jobs they created allowed farm men and women to supplement their farm incomes and others to gain jobs where few options previously existed outside of farming.⁹⁷

The 1970s were generally a good time for farmers throughout the United States, who benefited from rising land values, high farm incomes, and low interest rates.⁹⁸ In Saline County, the amount of irrigated land continued to grow so that by 1980 there were 843 registered wells and about 76,000 acres of irrigated land.⁹⁹ Farm size also increased, to 342 acres, while crop and livestock preferences continued to shift. Sorghum now ranked as the preferred grain. Planting of corn and wheat had diminished by half of what it had been in the 1940s but farmers still devoted a sizable share of the acreage to the crops. Soybean production, on the other hand, had increased exponentially since the 1960s, with the amount of acreage devoted to it increasing by 95%. Hogs accounted for the largest number of livestock in the county, followed by cattle. The number of dairy cattle and chickens continued to dwindle, and the number of sheep also fell. Additionally, the triumph of mechanized labor was clear in the number of horses present by the early 1980s, just 239; this was a far cry from the 6,330 horses present in 1940.¹⁰⁰

The fruitful years experienced by farmers in the 1970s changed just a decade later when the recession of the early 1980s brought with it staggering inflation, high unemployment, declining crop prices and slumping farmland values throughout the nation.¹⁰¹ The economic turmoil caused by this recession may help to explain the population loss that occurred between 1980 and 1990 when the county lost 3.2% of its residents, nearly erasing the gains made in the previous two decades.¹⁰² Interestingly, farm land values continued to rise during this decade, valued at an average of \$614 per acre in 1987.¹⁰³

By the 1990s, the percent of land devoted to farming continued to decline, amounting by this point to 85% of the total. The trend toward fewer, larger farms continued. In the decade between 1982 and 1992, the number of farms decreased by 12% while the average farm sized increased by 15%.¹⁰⁴ However, Saline County's economy continued to be defined by agriculture and businesses related to agriculture. Farm-related businesses activities included slaughtering and meat processing, corn and wheat processing, animal feed processing, and hog house assembly. Nationally marketed products made within the county included election equipment, pet food, ladies undergarments, fresh and cured pork, livestock liquid feed supplement, custom tool and dies, vise-grip tools, corn oil, cereal food, distiller grits, and aluminum storm doors and windows.¹⁰⁵

A population spike occurred in the decade following the slump of the 1980s. By the 2000 decennial census, the county had gained 1,128 residents, an 8.9% increase and the highest percentage of residents that had moved here since 1890. Today the county continues to grow, albeit at a slower rate. Between 2000 and 2010, the population grew by 2.6%, to 14,200 residents. In 2012, the

⁹⁷ Baltensperger, *Nebraska: A Geography*, 88-89, 112.

⁹⁸ Jason Manning, "The Midwest Farm Crisis of the 1980s," accessed May 18, 2015, <http://eightiesclub.tripod.com/id395.htm>.

⁹⁹ United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," 3.

¹⁰⁰ United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," 3-4; 1982 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

¹⁰¹ Olson and Naugle, *History of Nebraska*, 385-393.

¹⁰² 1990 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

¹⁰³ 1987 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

¹⁰⁴ 1987 & 1992 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska, Agriculture.

¹⁰⁵ United States Department of Agriculture, "Soil Survey of Saline County, Nebraska," 3.

Saline County

population was slightly more rural, 51%, than urban, 49%; a dramatic shift from a century before. Nearly half of Saline County's residents live in Crete, which offers the most employment opportunities out of all urban communities within the county and is also the most easily accessible to larger employment centers such as Lincoln. In recent years, while the offspring of some residents have moved elsewhere in search of jobs and opportunities, new immigrant groups have begun moving into Saline County to work in the manufacturing plants in Crete, at the farmer's cooperative in Dorchester, and elsewhere.

Once an area isolated from the major trail networks and overlooked by early Euro-American explorers, Saline County's growth benefited from advancements in transportation networks that brought many hardworking pioneers to farm the land, start businesses, and raise families. Though the county has experienced numerous changes since its founding, owing in large part to advancements in transportation and technology, its history is still visible in its natural landscapes and built fabric.

CRETE

INTRODUCTION

Crete is the largest community in Saline County and is located at the northeast corner of the county. Established along the east bank of the Big Blue River, Crete is situated on a level bottom in Crete township (Township 8, Range 4) Sections 29, 33, and 34. During its early years, Crete benefited from its adjacency to the Blue River, the building of three railroad lines through the center of town and the establishment of a college within its vicinity. Throughout the twentieth century, Crete's population and economy continued to thrive with the introduction of new business enterprises and the improvement of transportation networks that made movement even easier.

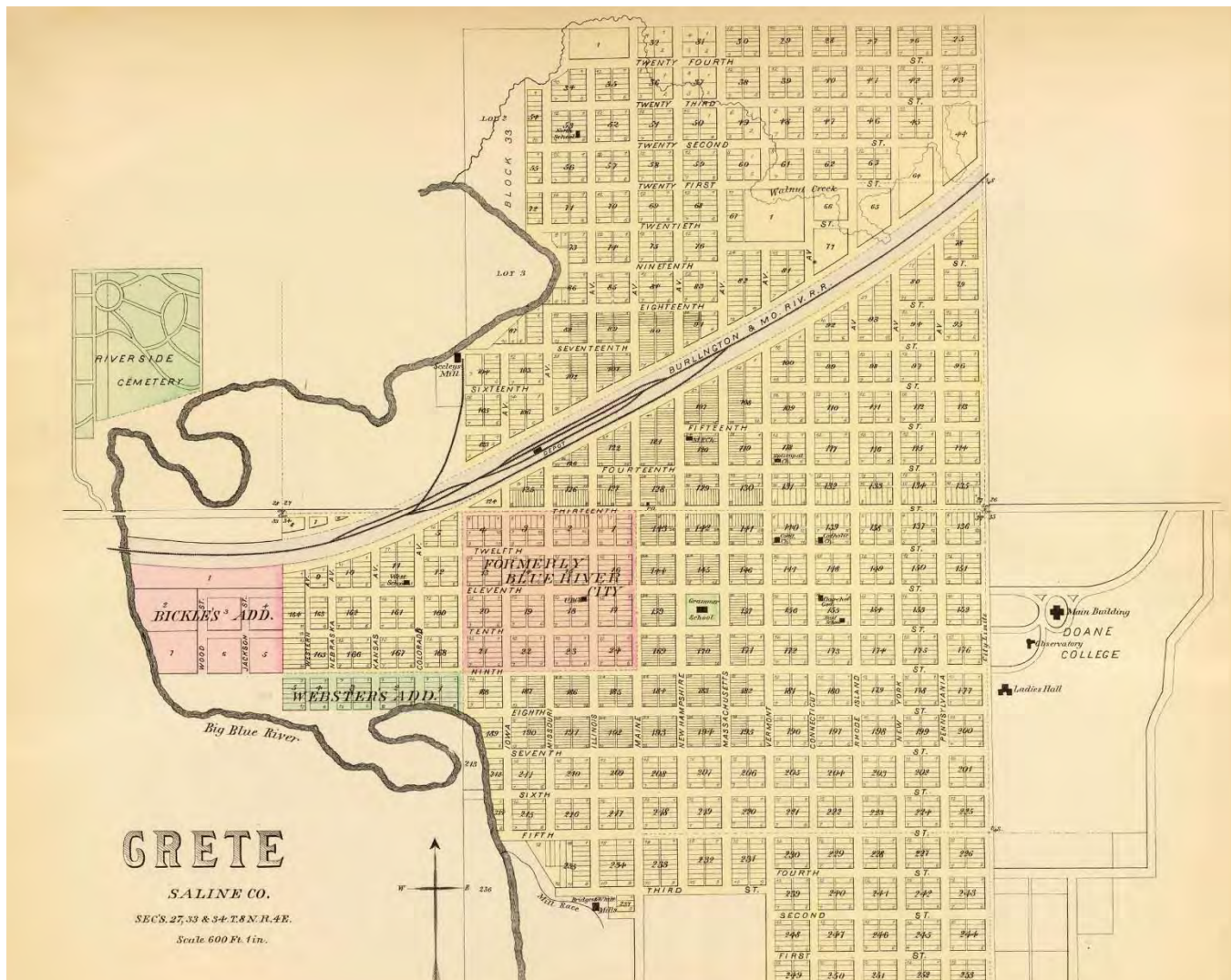


Figure 9: Crete Plat Map

(Source: Everts and Kirk, *The Official State Atlas of Nebraska*, Philadelphia, 1885.)

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY GROWTH, 1863-1899

Jesse C. Bickle was the first Euro-American to make a claim on the land that eventually became the town site for Crete. Bickle, a native of Ohio who farmed in Illinois and Iowa before moving to Nebraska, came in the summer of 1863 and built a dugout for himself in the bank of the river. A year later, he constructed a log house. Seeing the advantages of the land, and the close proximity to a strong water source, others soon followed and the town began to take shape. In 1868, Bickle was appointed postmaster of the area, with the post office located in his cabin. He named the post office Crete, in honor of his wife's hometown of Crete, Illinois.¹ Industrious early settlers saw the need for manufacturing enterprises to assist with building construction and agricultural production and so in 1869, a water-powered saw mill was built in the vicinity of the town along the Big Blue River. Known at the time as Mapleton Mills, this saw mill grew to become successful regionally and even internationally, and remains the longest running industrial business operating in the city. A year after the saw mill was constructed, a flour mill went up at the same site.²

In the summer of 1870, Bickle set aside a site on the southern portion of his land and laid out a town, which he called Blue River City. A few months later, the Burlington and Missouri Railroad Town Company purchased land directly north and east of Blue River City and platted a town that would be adjacent to their new railroad line from Lincoln. The Railroad Company named the town Crete after Bickle's Post Office, and because it fit with their desire to name the towns along the line in alphabetical order. Tension arose between the competing towns and the railroad nearly relocated

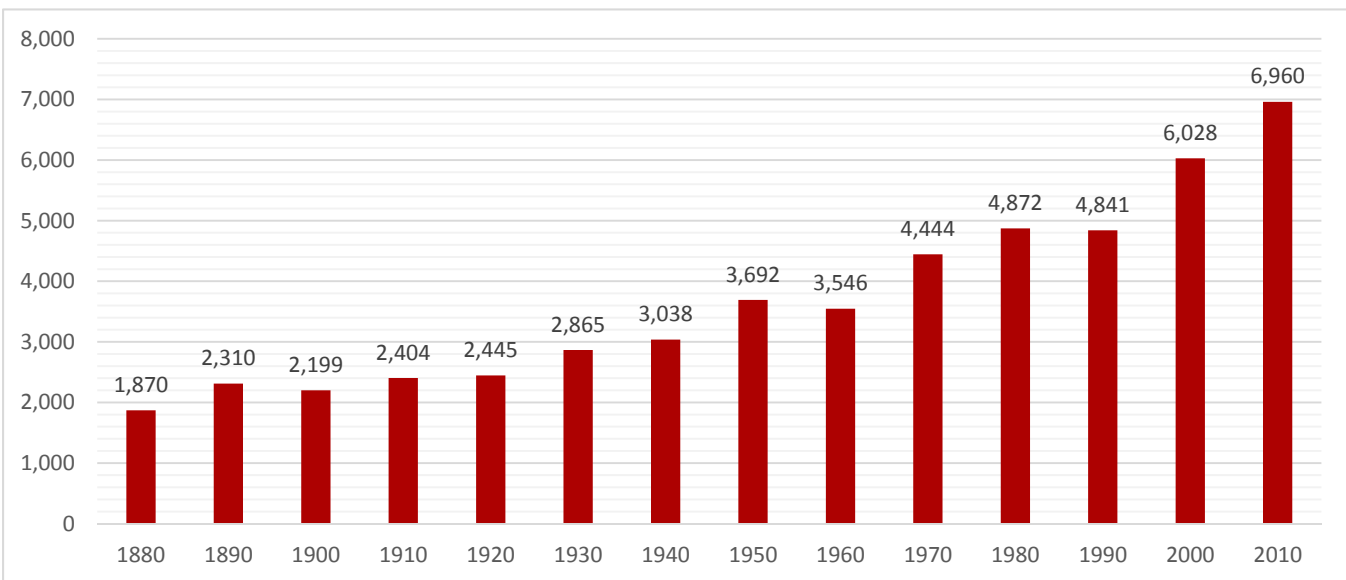


Figure 10: Crete Population
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015)

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Jesse C. Bickle House, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 77000838; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

² Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete;" Janet Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 8.

Crete, which would have isolated Blue River City.³ Before this happened, a compromise was reached and the two towns combined under an act of the Nebraska Legislature in March 1871. The first rail line arrived in June of 1871.⁴ A short while later a bridge was constructed over the Big Blue River that made Crete an easy stopping point for settlers to purchase supplies. These transportation mechanisms aided in Crete's development as a regional agricultural trade center and an outfitting point for pioneers heading farther west.⁵

The 1870s were an active time in Crete. At the beginning of the decade, the town contained just a handful of buildings and some of the town site was being used to cultivate corn and oats. The construction of the railroad lines, two of which were completed by the end of 1871, incited the establishment of businesses to serve railroad builders and town residents. Two of the earliest opened in the summer of 1870. One of these, Valentine, Tidbal & Co., sold general merchandise out of a large frame building, while the other, a saloon run by Richard Carter, sold liquor to thirsty railroad workers out of a shanty structure. Two more general stores, one of which also sold meat, appeared quickly thereafter.⁶ In the spring of 1871 a hotel was built to provide people with a comfortable, solid lodging option. The city's first newspaper, *The Saline County Post*, went to print in May 1871. In 1872, the Western Brewery established a facility on the western outskirts of town along the Big Blue River and made "Crete Beer," which was sold nationally. Janet Jefferies notes that it was Crete's European population that initiated local beer production, and there were a number of breweries in existence by the end of the twentieth century.⁷ The variety of new businesses and other opportunities brought such a large number of people to Crete that, by 1873, the fledgling town was large enough to incorporate as a city.⁸

To educate the children of early settlers, a one-room, 16-foot square school was established in 1870 at the back of new downtown building that also housed a carpenters shop. This building was used for educational purposes for less than a year. The front of the building later became a cigar store, and it remains today at 1328 Main, notable as the oldest extant commercial building in downtown Crete.⁹ During the next school year both the elementary and high school students studied at the two-story brick Doane Academy building, which opened in the fall of 1871. The building also served as a community hub for



Figure 11: 1328 Main Street (SA01-384)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

³ National Register of Historic Places, Jesse C. Bickle House, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 77000838; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Crete"; Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*.

⁴ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

⁵ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*.

⁶ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

⁷ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 38; Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1909, 1923, and 1935.

⁸ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

⁹ Sandra J. Breitretz, ed., *Saline County Roots: Stories and Genealogies* (The Saline County Genealogical Society, 1997); Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*; Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 18.

Crete residents who sometimes used it for town hall meetings and church services.¹⁰ In 1873, the growing population necessitated the construction of three frame elementary schools, the East, West and North Ward schools. Middle school and high school classes continued to be taught at the Doane Academy building until 1880.¹¹

During the 1870s, Crete benefitted from the founding of Doane College. This college is the oldest liberal arts college in Nebraska and, according to Janet Jefferies, was founded to give “pioneer children on the prairie...the same educational advantages as children from more civilized areas.”¹² The college incorporated in 1872, an outgrowth of Doane Academy, established one year earlier.¹³ Its founders were settlers who came to Crete from New England and were members of the General Association of Congregational Churches. With the assistance of Colonel Thomas Doane, chief civil engineer for the Burlington Missouri River Railroad and the school’s namesake, the founders secured 600 acres of land donated by the railroad on a hilltop at the southeast end of town. Campus planning began in the mid-1870s and the first structure, Merrill Hall, was built in 1879. Cabot and Chandler, a well-known Boston firm, designed the building, which served as a center for college life until it was destroyed by fire in 1969.¹⁴

Crete made its first unsuccessful attempt to secure the county seat in 1877. Though it lost, Crete was well on its way to becoming a thriving city even without that distinction. In these fledgling years, a commercial district arose that centered on the intersection of Main (then Maine) Avenue and 13th Street, just a few blocks from the railroad. The first commercial buildings constructed in Crete were of frame construction. Many stood just one story with false fronts to give them a more substantial appearance. In 1876, the city’s first brick building was constructed near the northwest corner of 13th and Main. Built by Dr. Charles Band, the Band Building, no longer extant, contained two retail bays at its first story and an opera house with a capacity for 800 people at its second story.¹⁵ More brick buildings followed as the city continued to grow, including the three-story brick Cosmopolitan Hotel in 1879. The hotel was built at the northeast corner of 14th Street and Main Avenue, an advantageous location just two blocks from the railroad depot.¹⁶

The city gained an additional civic service in 1878 when a public library was organized. For the next 37 years, books were housed in a number of locations downtown, such as a bookstore and law offices, until the library received its own dedicated location in 1915.¹⁷

In addition to those who came from the east coast to establish Doane College, Crete’s early residents included many of German and Czech heritage, some of whom ran businesses and other enterprises

¹⁰ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 61, 65.

¹¹ Breitreutz, ed., *Saline County Roots: Stories and Genealogies*.

¹² Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 61.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 61, 65.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, “Saline County.” Janet Jeffries, Doane College, “Merrill Loss Still Remembered After 40 Years,” accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.doane.edu/news/merrill-loss-still-remembered-after-40-years-0>.

¹⁵ Jefferies, *Images of America*, 9-30: *Crete*; Kalkwarf, “Crete, Saline County,” in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

¹⁶ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 21.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 47.

that helped Crete thrive.¹⁸ Crete's early leaders were intent upon creating a town that was not only economically successful, but also physically beautiful. The town's burial ground, Riverside Cemetery, was laid out in 1879 in the "rural cemetery" style which became popular during the mid-1800s and incorporated park-like features such as curving drives, tree-lined streets, and limestone retaining walls.¹⁹ Additionally, an experimental landscaping program was carried out along the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad lines and on the Doane College campus to see which non-native trees and plants might thrive on the prairie.²⁰

At the time of the 1880 decennial census, Crete boasted 1,870 residents, which quickly grew to 2,310 by the 1890 census. Over the course of these two decades, more and more businesses appeared in the commercial district, allowing Crete residents and those from nearby areas to meet many of their needs without having to travel far. By 1890, downtown businesses included 2 banks: First National Bank and the State Bank of Nebraska; 6 grocery stores; 2 druggists; 6 general merchandise stores; 2 furniture stores; 2 jewelers; 7 clothing stores; 2 restaurants; 3 meat markets; 6 saloons; and the opera hall. There were also a number of businesses related to repair and sale of horse drawn vehicles, which people at the time depended upon to transport themselves and their goods to those places not served by rail. This included 4 blacksmiths, 3 harness manufacturers, 4 liverys, and 1 carriage works.²¹

Main (then Maine) Avenue and 13th Street became almost solidly lined with 1-and 2-story buildings. Many business owners now had commissioned brick buildings and some concrete block buildings even appeared. One of the brick buildings that went up belonged to Czech immigrant Joseph Kopestsky, who came to Nebraska in 1864 and opened a jewelry store in Crete in 1871. In 1888 he moved his business into the first floor of a new two-story, one bay brick building at 1229 Maine Avenue, a prime spot along the dense Main Street corridor. Kopestsky's jewelry store and other commercial buildings reflected the prevailing revival styles of the day, with features such as cast iron storefronts; tall windows at the second stories with wood or stone lintels and sills; and elaborate cornices to top off the buildings.²²

In 1890, the city acquired its first city hall, a two-story frame building that had formerly served as the high school. It was moved to a prominent location one block south of the downtown core at the corner of 13th Street and Kingwood Avenue. A brick jail was later added behind the civic building.²³

Crete's growing population necessitated the expansion of the existing schools. In 1882, the city constructed a two-story wood frame high school at the southeast corner of 11th Street and Linden Avenue. Just six years later, in 1888, a new, three-story brick high school went up at the same site that reflected the Queen Anne style and boasted multiple turrets and fine brick detailing.²⁴ By the

¹⁸ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*.

¹⁹ Ibid., 6, 45.

²⁰ Ibid., 8.

²¹ Saline County NEGenWeb, "1890 Crete Business Gazette," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nesaline/misc/1890gaz1.htm>; Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Crete."

²² Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 10-13, 20.

²³ Ibid., 35.

²⁴ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 48.

end of the decade, the East and West Ward schools were replaced by two-story brick buildings.²⁵ A private school option became available in 1887 when the German Catholic congregation constructed St. James School. Up on the hill, Doane College's campus was slowly taking shape with the addition of Boswell Observatory, built in 1883, and Gaylord Hall, built in 1884. Boswell Observatory is believed to be the first weather service headquarters in Nebraska and the telescope installed there was the largest its kind west of the Mississippi at the time.²⁶ Both buildings, which remain standing, are of brick construction with a refined collegiate style.²⁷

Manufacturing within Crete generally took place on the outskirts of the commercial district, near the railroad or the Big Blue River. In 1881, the water-powered saw and grist mill at the southwest end of the city became Crete Mills. Eight years later, the fledgling Fairmont Creamery opened its first plant outside of its home base of Fairmont, Nebraska, taking over the site formerly occupied by the Crete Creamery, at 18th Street and Boswell Avenue. The plant produced a variety of dairy products, including cream, milk and ice cream, as well as processed eggs and poultry.²⁸ By 1890, the city also had a foundry, a soap manufacturer, a wind mill manufacturer, a mineral water maker, 3 lumber yards, 3 grain elevators, 2 coal yards, 2 breweries, and an Anheuser-Busch Beer Depot.²⁹

Electricity and a water works plant appeared in the 1880s when George D. Stevens laid out a water powered electrical grid for the city. Pipelines were also installed at this time to provide water for private and civic uses.³⁰ In 1889, the city's first utility plant and pump house was constructed at 18th Street and Kingwood Avenue. The plant provided water and electricity to the city via pipes connected to a large reservoir on College Hill.³¹



Figure 12: Gaylord Hall (SA01-007) & Boswell Observatory (SA01-009), Doane College campus.

(Source: APMA 2015)

²⁵ Ibid., 35, 47.

²⁶ National Register of Historic Places, College Hill Historic District. Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 83001101.

²⁷ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 61-67.

²⁸ Ibid., 41

²⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1889; Saline County NEGenWeb, "1890 Crete Business Gazette;" Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County" "Crete."

³⁰ National Register of Historic Places, College Hill Historic District. Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 83001101.

³¹ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 33.



Figure 13: Judge W.H. Morris House (SA01-006) in the College Hill Neighborhood
(Source: APMA, 2015)

In the midst of this utility work, the names of the city's north-south running streets changed for the first time in its history. In 1887 each was renamed in honor of various states in the Midwest and back east.³²

During the late nineteenth century, the railroad remained the main driver behind Crete's growth. Realizing the advantages a second railroad route would bring to their city, Crete's leaders provided the Missouri Pacific with a \$35,000 grant to direct their line into Crete, rather than going through another town.³³ In exchange, in 1888, the Missouri Pacific Railroad completed a branch line that entered the town from the southwest and then ran up to parallel the Burlington and Missouri route. These lines provided essential transportation for agricultural commodities in this portion of the state.

Early Crete's residents seeking to join religious or fraternal groups had many options to choose from. Church groups present in Crete by 1890 included denominations of United Brethren, Church of God, Methodist, Congregational, Episcopal, Catholic, and Lutheran. The city also had local chapters of fraternal associations such as the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.), Royal Arch Masons (R.A.M.), and the American Freeman (A.F.).³⁴ Additionally, the city's Czech residents could join the Cesko-Slovanska Podporujici Spolecnost (C.S.P.S.) or a Sokol organization, Telovicna Jednota Sokol, which had been established in 1887. The Sokol emphasized a strong mind and body through physical, social and educational activities. In 1891 the immigrants who had established this group built a hall for themselves west of the business district.³⁵

In Crete's first few decades as a city, residences of all shapes and styles arose to house the many people arriving to live and work there. These houses ranged from simple cottages to medium-sized simple Victorian homes to elaborate mansions dressed with high style ornamentation. Within the city there were a number of talented carpenters, contractors, and architects to help carry out design and construction. One of these was James W. Kerst, a contractor who built much of Crete's residential architecture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition to houses, Kerst also built farm buildings, churches, educational facilities and commercial buildings during his career.³⁶ Those

³² Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

³³ Hastings, *Who's Who in Saline County*.

³⁴ Saline County NGenWeb, "1890 Crete Business Gazette."

³⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Tělocvičná Jednota T.J. Sokol Hall, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 03001214.

³⁶ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 75.

with more refined tastes, and deeper pockets, often turned to architects in Omaha and Lincoln, or farther afield, to provide them with the type of showy elegance they desired.³⁷

For many of the city's early leaders, College Hill, a neighborhood located on an incline between the commercial district and Doane College, became the choice location in which to build homes. Early residents in this neighborhood included founders and supporters of Doane College and Crete's business enterprises. The homes in this neighborhood reflect a variety of architectural styles popular around the turn of the twentieth century, including Queen Anne, Italianate, Colonial Revival, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival and Georgian.³⁸ On the opposite end of town, Jesse Bickle added on a series of additions to his log house, site of the first post office, until it grew into a large, two-story building with Gothic Revival features by 1880.³⁹ Bickle's home was sited on a large swath of land north of the railroad tracks, tucked away from other residential development that occurred in the northeast part of town.

In addition to the rise in permanent residents that occurred during the late nineteenth century, Crete attracted large numbers of summer tourists between 1882 and 1897 for a summer event known as the Crete Chautauqua. The Chautauqua movement was founded 1874 at Lake Chautauqua in western New York by two men of the Methodist faith interested in developing an interdenominational educational program for Sunday School teachers. The event proved so successful that it spread



Figure 14: Chautauqua octagonal office building (SA01-200)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

throughout the country. The Chautauqua in Crete was organized by a group of Congregationalists under the banner of the Nebraska Sunday School Assembly. Over the course of the 1890s, the Crete Chautauqua grew into a 10-day event that mixed religious education with virtuous entertainment.

Crete's Chautauqua event took place on 109 acres of land purchased by assembly organizers in 1884 and located just west of Crete along the Blue River. By the mid-1890s twenty permanent buildings had been constructed on the Chautauqua grounds, including an octagonal office building, pavilion, dining hall, barber shop, post office, and headquarters for various religious groups.⁴⁰ The event proved mutually beneficial to local businessman as well as the railroad, each of which experienced an increase in business in exchange for assisting with advertising and offering reduced

transportation rates. The Crete Chautauqua began to wane by the late 1890s and in 1897 the grounds

³⁷ Ibid., 75.

³⁸ National Register of Historic Places, College Hill Historic District. Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 83001101.

³⁹ National Register of Historic Places, Jesse C. Bickle House, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 77000838.

⁴⁰ James P. Eckman, "Respectable Leisure: The Crete Chautauqua, 1882-1897," *Nebraska History* 69 (1988): 19-29; Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

were sold to Anton Vavra who converted it into an amusement park called Valva Park. In addition to the park, the site was also used for the annual Saline County Fair, concerts, and baseball games.⁴¹ The octagonal office building is the only remnant of the Chautauqua days remaining at the site today.

By the end of the 1890s, Crete was on its way to recovering from an economic depression that had struck the nation in 1893. It was also swiftly approaching the modern age in which technology would bring with it new types of entertainment, transportation, communication, and even architecture. The dawn of a new age might best be exemplified by a two day event that took place at Band's Opera House in August of 1898. In an effort to attract a dwindling audience, the opera house, once a center of community activities, was briefly made over into a cinema palace, offering showings of an Edison motion picture for the first time in Crete.⁴² Within thirty years, the city would have three movie theaters, including one in the Band building, and automobiles could be found throughout the city and beyond.

DAWN OF A NEW ERA – 1900-1929

At the turn of the century, Crete experienced a small population decline of 4.8%, likely linked to the financial crisis of the 1890s. As the city advanced into the new century, however, it managed to overcome these momentary hardships and acquire more residents and businesses. By the 1920s, Crete's population had grown by 11% and it continued to increase, reaching 2,865 by 1930.

Throughout the city, there was a turnover in building stock in the first decades of the 1900s, which reflected Crete's continued growth and success as a city. In 1902, Crete received a hospital, giving the sick and injured a nearby place to seek treatment. The two story, hipped roof building had a double decker porch on its front façade where patients could easily seek out fresh air and sunlight. The extant building at the southeast corner of 14th Street and Juniper Avenue was later converted into apartments when the hospital moved to larger facilities elsewhere.⁴³ A new brick train depot was built for the Burlington & Northern line in 1905 to replace the original 1870s building. The new depot, no longer standing, boasted steam heat, electricity, restrooms, and various service and lounge areas.⁴⁴ Douglas Manufacturing opened its doors around 1906 on a site leased from the Burlington Northern Railroad at 16th Street and Pine Avenue. The business produced collapsible voting booths, which its founder, Elizabeth Jane Robb Douglas, had invented in 1905 and patented in 1906.⁴⁵ In 1907, Western Brewery at the west end of town was destroyed by fire and not rebuilt.⁴⁶

The commercial district became increasingly dense, with some buildings replaced and others going up on previously empty lots. Many new establishments opened that reflected the forward pace of the modernizing city. In 1909, the city's first automobile showroom, Universal Auto Company, opened at the southwest corner of 13th and Linden. Some of the city's first automobiles were sold from this one-story brick building, which had large plate glass windows at the north end to show off the cars

⁴¹ Eckman, "Respectable Leisure: The Crete Chautauqua, 1882-1897," 19-29; Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁴² Douglas O. Street, "Band's Opera House, the Cultural Hub of Crete, 1877-1900," (*Nebraska History*, 1979), 71-73.

⁴³ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 42.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 40.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 38; Jean Lampila, "Douglas Manufacturing celebrates business milestones 100 and 25 years," *Crete News*, November 2, 2010.

⁴⁶ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 38.

housed within.⁴⁷ By 1910, the city had three banks within a two block radius after the two-story City National Bank Building went up at the northwest corner of 12th Street and Main Avenue. Built by C.M. Marcelino, the bank boasted a fire- and burglar-proof vault. A dental office occupied the second story in its early days.⁴⁸

Local residents wishing to experience the still relatively new trend of moving picture shows benefitted from the opening of the city's first movie house, the Lyric, in 1915, which was located at 134 W. 13th Street. That same year, the Crete Sokol built a new hall for themselves at the northeast corner of 12th Street and Norman Avenue to replace their previous building that had been destroyed by fire in 1913. The two-story brick building with a raised basement contained an auditorium for gymnastics, dances, and theatrical performances along with meeting spaces and dining facilities. As with other Sokol Halls, the Crete Sokol group did not limit the use of their building to just their own organization or even their own ethnic group. Instead, since its opening, the hall has been a place where local Czech fraternal groups can meet and where non-Czech community members can host a variety of activities.⁴⁹

Also in 1915 a permanent home for the public library finally became a reality, with partial funding coming from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The one-story brick building had a raised basement and refined classical features outlined in stone. It was designed by architect J.W. Salmon of Lincoln and constructed on a site facing 13th Street east of the downtown core.⁵⁰

Around this same time, automobiles were becoming increasingly common in Crete. In 1916, Crete's first gas station opened at the northwest corner of 13th Street and Norman Avenue, giving local automobile owners a place to refuel right in the city.⁵¹

Crete continued to be an important agricultural trade center until the Great Depression. It was a place where farmers could come to purchase farm equipment, sell their grain, milk, eggs and other raw materials, and purchase clothing and various necessities. The railroad made it easy to ship and receive crops or seeds, and the presence of businesses such as the Fairmont Creamery meant a ready buyer for items produced and grown on the farms. Fairmont Creamery moved its operations closer to downtown and the railroad in the first decade of the 1900s, taking over two-thirds of a city block at the southeast corner of S. Railway Street and Main Avenue.⁵²

Crete Mills also relocated in the first part of the 1900s. In 1913, following a fire at one of its elevator buildings on the Big Blue River, the business moved to its present location, adjacent to the railroad and directly north of downtown. With the move, mill operations switched from a dependence upon water power to electricity. The mill constructed a modern daylight plant in 1919 using profits from flour sales secured during World War I. Built of reinforced concrete and steel, the plant was of fire-proof construction and had large window openings and good ventilation. It was one of only 10

⁴⁷ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 33.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 22.

⁴⁹ National Register of Historic Places, Tělocvičná Jednota T.J. Sokol Hall, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 03001214.

⁵⁰ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 54.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 46.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 41.

daylight mill plants constructed in Nebraska.⁵³ Nearby concrete elevators were constructed that could accommodate much heavier loads than their wooden counterparts. In the coming decades, the daylight plant was added onto and the mill thrived, benefitting from its adjacency to the railroad and its proximity to fertile agricultural lands.⁵⁴

Educational facilities throughout Crete continued to be added and improved in the early twentieth century. In 1918 a new three-story public high school building was completed east of the former school, the latter of which acquired the nickname of "Old '88."⁵⁵ "Old '88" was then taken over for elementary education.

Up on the hill, Doane College was filling its campus with additional buildings to accommodate the growing student body. George and Arthur Dean's Chicago-based architectural firm, Dean and Dean, designed many of these and later buildings on the campus. The Deans' were intimately connected to Doane College; they themselves were Doane alumni and their brother Edwin acted as college president between 1925 and 1936. In 1907, the firm's Whitcomb Conservatory/Lee Memorial Chapel, a 5-sided, Prairie School style building was completed. Two years later, they designed a four-room Craftsman style cottage, called Fiske Lodge, to house the campus infirmary. The Carnegie Science Hall also went up in 1909, funded with a \$25,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie. This 3-story brick building, which contained laboratories and lecture rooms, was designed by Fiske and Dieman of Lincoln. Twenty years later, the imposing Collegiate Gothic Men's Hall, later renamed Smith Hall, went up at the north end of campus. Dean and Dean were the architects for this building.⁵⁶

In 1920, Crete revived its bid for the county seat after the State Fire Commissioner deemed the existing county courthouse in Wilber to be unsafe. An election was held in September, at which time Crete failed to gain the 60 percent majority vote it needed to secure the coveted distinction.⁵⁷ Crete's strong economy, advantageous location adjacent to the railroad, and the presence of the respected Doane College, meant that this loss did little to adversely affect the city's survival. Instead the city continued to prosper throughout the 1920s, and even into the more tumultuous decades that followed.

In addition to the economic benefits of their businesses, the Fairmont Creamery and Crete Mills, provided civic benefits to Crete's residents during the early twentieth century as well. In 1921, the Crete Commercial Club, a business organization that had formed a few years earlier, helped to finance the construction of a public swimming pool at the northeast corner of 14th Street and Linden Avenue (formerly New Hampshire Avenue). Hot water condensers at Fairmont Creamery, located less than a block away, helped to heat the pool. The creamery also provided steam heat to a number of nearby businesses. For its part, Crete Mills provided the city with electric power for a period of time.⁵⁸

As Crete's population grew in the first part of the 1900s, so too did its residential building stock. New houses filled in empty lots on all sides of the town, including on the hill leading up to Doane College.

⁵³ Thomas R. Buecker, "Nebraska Flour Mill Buildings, Structure and Style, 1854-1936," *Nebraska History* 66 (1985), 160-61.

⁵⁴ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 44-45.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 48 and 51.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 71-73.

⁵⁷ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 152-154.

⁵⁸ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 31 and 42.



Figure 15: Otto Feeken's Mission-style Bungalow (SA01-374)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

While some of these new residences continued to embody qualities of architectural styles popular in the latter half of the nineteenth century, such as the Queen Anne, many more reflected the prevailing trends of the day, which were often, but not always, simpler in form, smaller in scale, and more subdued in ornamentation. Bungalows and Foursquares became very popular house forms in the early 1900s, and can be found scattered throughout Crete.

The bungalow is typically distinguished by its low-pitched roof with overhanging eaves, 1-to-1½ stories, and large front porch while the foursquare is recognizable as a two-story cube with a pyramidal roof

and the interior rooms divided into quarters at each floor. Both of these house forms were essentially a blank slate to which an owner or developer could apply features of a specific architectural style. In Crete, they were most often found dressed up with Craftsman or Mission detailing. Contractor Otto Feeken built a number of bungalows in Crete, including two of the first bungalows at 309 and 317 East 14th Street in 1920, and a Mission-style bungalow for his family on the southeast corner of 14th Street and Norman Avenue.⁵⁹

To accommodate for the increased use of automobile use, and to reflect prevailing trends in streetscape design, Crete installed its first stoplight in 1920, at the intersection of 13th and Main (then Maine) Avenue. The old, tall streetlight poles were also replaced by shorter ones topped with globes.⁶⁰ Two years later, Crete changed its north-south street names for the second and final time, this time to a variety of trees, including Sycamore, Ivy and Linden. At the same time Maine Avenue was simplified to Main Avenue.⁶¹

The railroad helped to fuel Crete's success at the turn of the twentieth century, but in the coming decades it would be usurped by the automobile, particularly for the transportation of people. While the railroad would remain vital for its ability to ship freight effectively, businesses related to horse-drawn vehicle conveyance disappeared completely from Crete's downtown once the automobile became more affordable, and thus widespread. The rise of the automobile in the early 1900s and the appearance of Nebraska State 33 through Crete in 1926 meant that wagon stores, harness shops and liverys soon gave way to automobile showrooms, garages and filling stations.⁶² Nebraska Highway 33, which connected U.S. Highway 6 to U.S. Highway 77 as it passed through Dorchester and Crete in Saline County, followed the Burlington Northern railroad tracks between the two cities. This road made Crete easier to get to and from.

While residents could now go farther to access goods and services, new businesses continued to open and attract locals with necessities and diversions closer to home. In 1926, the state-of-the-art Isis Theatre at 135-137 W. 13th Street was built by local contractor Otto Freekan, who had experience

⁵⁹ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 84.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, 16.

⁶¹ Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁶² Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Crete," 1909, 1923, and 1935.

building sets in Hollywood, and owned by Arva Burrus. The theater incorporated a novel air conditioning system and had the technology to accommodate “talking” movies, which would not appear in Nebraska until 1930.⁶³ A few years later, in 1929, the Band Building was remodeled and a popular dance venue, the Cinderella Ballroom, took over the former second floor opera space.

THE MID-CENTURY – 1930-1969

The tumultuous events of the mid-century, most notably the Great Depression and World War II, impacted Crete as they did all parts of the nation. During the Depression, many businesses closed and people lost jobs. One of Crete’s three banks failed during this time.⁶⁴ However, over the course of the decade, the city also added a handful of new civic and education buildings and a new businesses opened within existing buildings. All of the city’s major companies managed to make it through the difficult period and thrive in the coming years. The city’s population also continued to grow between 1930 and 1970, even while Saline County as a whole lost residents. During this time, Crete’s population grew from 2,865 to 4,444 and the city continued to benefit greatly from her strong business connections, transportation advantages, and institution of higher education.

During the Depression, five civic and educational buildings were constructed in Crete and on the Doane College Campus that provided jobs to local residents while at the same time adding diversity to the city’s building stock. Three of the buildings were constructed as a part of government programs created to alleviate unemployment. The first was a post office, built under President Hoover’s administration for a cost of \$65,000 and dedicated on October 11, 1931. The two story building was designed in the Neo-Classical Style with a portico at its entry topped by a pediment and supported by columns. The first floor contained a postal workroom and service counter while the second floor had offices for military recruiting and a lounge for employees.⁶⁵

A few years later, Crete received two buildings constructed with grants from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a New Deal employment relief program established in 1935 that partnered with state and local governments like Crete’s to provide work to the unemployed for the construction of buildings, structures, roads, natural environments, and other projects. In 1939, a WPA grant allowed for the construction of a new city hall to replace the frame building the city had used since the 1890s. In addition to offices for city employees, the two-story brick Art Deco building contained garages and workshops for the fire department and city vehicles, community meeting spaces, a kitchen, storage vaults and a jail.⁶⁶ The other WPA subsidized building, a school, went up in 1942, one year before the dissolution of the government program. Construction of the new Central Elementary was supervised by contractors John Kerst and Anton Vasak, who were assisted by local builder Otto Freeken and a construction crew of WPA laborers. The school allowed for the consolidation of students from the North and West Ward schools. Thereafter the North Ward school was utilized by K-2 students until the 1950s.⁶⁷

At Doane College, Frees Hall, a women’s dormitory, was constructed in 1931 on the opposite side of the campus from the Smith Hall, the men’s dormitory. Frees Hall was finished in the same style,

⁶³ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 96.

⁶⁴ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, “Crete,” 1935.

⁶⁵ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 39.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 35.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 50-51; Doane College, “Frees Hall,” accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.doane.edu/frees-hall>.

Collegiate Gothic, and had the same architect, Dean and Dean, as Smith Hall and appears to have been funded by a generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Frees, for whom the building is named.⁶⁸ Five years later, Butler Gymnasium was constructed, enclosing a wooden gymnasium that students had helped to build in 1915. A simply ornamented brick façade, engaged buttresses, and arched roof gave the gym a refined appearance.⁶⁹

New businesses that opened during the Great Depression included a short-lived brewery and the city's third movie theater, both of which utilized existing buildings. Dr. Miller's Brewery operated out of the former Farmers Union Cooperative grain elevator and flour mill facility at the northwest corner of West 13th Street and Quince beginning in 1933. Miller hired a Bohemian brewmaster, who produced such popular beers as Golden Harvest and Kreet until the plant's closure in 1941. In 1938, the Times Theatre opened in the renovated first floor of Band's Opera House. The second floor dance hall had recently failed and the owner was looking for a financially viable entertainment option to fill the building. In tandem with the interior alterations, an illuminated marquee was added and the exterior was entirely stuccoed in an effort to have the 1870s building mimic the popular architectural styles of the day. This new venture at the Band building proved more successful, and the theater remained in operation for the next 30 years.⁷⁰

In the midst of new businesses opening and closing, Crete gained its second state highway, Nebraska Highway 103. The highway, which primarily ran north-south, was established in 1936. It met up with Nebraska Highway 33 at the northeast edge of Crete, shared a road through the city, and then turned south west of the Crete. By 1974, with the completion of Interstate 80 through Nebraska, this state highway gave Crete's residents easy access to a major arterial located just 15 miles to the north.⁷¹

America's entry into World War II following the Pearl Harbor bombing on December 7, 1941 brought a dramatic end to the Great Depression as every citizen was called upon to mobilize for the war effort. Many business owners and farmers that had struggled during the lean years of the Depression were suddenly overcome with requests to produce food and make products for the enlisted and civilians alike. One of Crete's main industries, Fairmont Creamery, employed nearly four times as many workers during the war as it did during peacetime to maintain a demanding schedule that including producing 15,000 pounds of dried eggs daily. The Crete plant did such an exemplary



Figure 16: 136-140 W. 13th Street. Built c. 1897 and remodeled after WWII (SA01-375) (Source: APMA, 2015).

⁶⁸ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 73.

⁶⁹ Ibid., 72.

⁷⁰ Ibid., 14; Street, "Band's Opera House, The Cultural Hub of Crete, 1877-1900," 75.

⁷¹ Chris Geelhart, "Nebraska Highways," last modified October 23, 2005, <http://www.dm.net/~chris-g/ne100up.html#NE-103>; Nebraska Department of Roads, "The Interstate in Nebraska," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/i-80-anniv/>

job that its management and employees was bestowed the Army-Navy Production Award in 1943, one of the first food plants to receive the distinction.⁷²

Doane College also contributed to the war effort by participating in the education and training of naval personnel through the government's V-12 Navy

College Training Program. In 1944, the college displayed its commitment to the program by adding a swimming pool to Butler Gymnasium for navy training purposes. These efforts were recognized with a Mark of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy. The college later constructed a naval memorial on the campus grounds to celebrate this achievement.



Figure 17: Ranch house, 1755 Ridgeway Court (SA01-356)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

In the two decades after the war, the local economy continued to thrive. Many of Crete's downtown buildings underwent improvements to take care of maintenance that had been delayed during the war and to modernize their appearance for an increased appeal to consumers. In many cases, building owners sought cost effective ways to upgrade their buildings so that they embodied a modern, stream-lined appearance. These improvements ranged from removing ornamentation from above windows and at the cornice level to infilling and sometimes squaring off window openings to cladding the entire front façade in either stucco or new brick, or a combination of all three. Flat metal canopies were often added above the storefront level, which itself might be altered with a new aluminum storefront system, depending upon the owners budget.

In 1949, the Crete Municipal Airport opened with two runways on a 202-acre site two miles east of the city. Today the airport is used by private airplanes flown for recreation and business, as a training facility for military exercises and civil flight instruction, and for medical flights to transport doctors and patients to and from Crete Municipal Hospital. For commercial service, residents travel to Lincoln or Omaha.⁷³

Residences built between 1930 and 1960 reflected a continued emphasis upon simplification and clean lines first introduced in the early decades of the twentieth century. These qualities manifested themselves in a variety of forms – as bungalows, minimal traditional, post-war, and ranches. In Crete, styles applied to these house forms included Dutch Colonial, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Modern. The houses continued to fill in empty parcels or replaced existing houses on lots scattered throughout the city. During the 1930s and 40s, James Sinkule, a local carpenter and bricklayer, constructed many of the city's Tudor Revival homes.⁷⁴ During the post-war period, the ranch house predominated, favored for its economy and efficiency during construction. While some can be found

⁷² Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 41; Jean Lampila, "Fairmont Creamery received wartime production award in 1943," *Crete News*, November 14, 2013.

⁷³ Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc. for Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, "Economic Impact of Aviation in Nebraska," December 2003, 103-04.

⁷⁴ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 75.

interspersed with the existing housing stock, a small but dedicated ranch subdivision also developed at the northeast end of the city that included limited examples of post-war suburban landscape features, such as curvilinear streets, similar looking houses, and large front yards.

A particularly rare and noteworthy residence built during the post-war period was a prefabricated, metal paneled Lustron House, assembled for Gustav W. Linberg, a business professor at Doane College, in 1949. All the pieces for the house were made in Ohio and then shipped to Crete.⁷⁵ The Lustron Corporation introduced these homes during the housing shortage following World War II, and advertised them as easy to assemble, durable, and maintenance free. Unfortunately the company went bankrupt and closed after just two years, with less than 3,000 houses manufactured, and about 30 of these built in Nebraska.⁷⁶

During the 1950s and 1960s, the city underwent changes to both its buildings and natural landscapes. In 1955, the "Old 88" high school was torn down so as to make way for the city's fourth high school building. High school classes moved from the 1918 school into the new building after its completion in 1956. The 1918 school was then used for students in grades 7 through 9.⁷⁷ Also in 1956, the first of three additions was made to the 1942 elementary school so that it could accommodate the expanding student body which was a result of the post-war baby boom.⁷⁸ Additional public green space was added to the city with the purchase in 1959 of the grounds once utilized for the Valva Amusement Park and the Crete Chautauqua. Now called Tuxedo Park, the green space continued to host the annual county fair in its new capacity. In the subsequent decades, the park was improved with the addition of more baseball diamonds, and the construction of new county fair buildings.⁷⁹

Downtown, the Cosmopolitan Hotel, later called the Crete Hotel, was demolished after having served as a tire storage facility for many years.⁸⁰ In 1965 the city built a new fire station at 210 E. 14th Street, where the public pool had once stood, for its all-volunteer fire department. The simple brick and concrete building incorporated seven garage bays along its front façade to house the fire and emergency vehicles.⁸¹

The worst disaster to strike Crete in the twentieth century occurred on February 18, 1969 when a 25-car derailment caused three tankers of ammonia to explode. The deadly gas spread throughout the city's neighborhoods and caused the death of 8 people and seriously injured 25. As a result of this and other railroad wrecks that occurred throughout the nation in the 1960s and 1970s, hazardous response teams were added to fire departments, including Crete's.⁸²

⁷⁵ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 122.

⁷⁶ Tom Wolfe and Leonard Garfield, "A New Standard for Living: The Lustron House, 1946-1950," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 3, (1989): 51-61, accessed May 25, 2015, <http://www.jstor.org>; Patrick Haynes, Historic Resources Survey & Inventory Coordinator at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, message to author, May 19, 2015.

⁷⁷ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 48.

⁷⁸ City of Crete, "Crete Comprehensive Plan," May 2006, accessed April 6, 2015, <http://ne-crete.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/21>.

⁷⁹ Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁸⁰ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*.

⁸¹ City of Crete, "Crete Comprehensive Plan."

⁸² Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 199; John R. Cashman, *Emergency Response to Chemical and Biological Agents* (CRC Press LLC, 2000), 63.

MODERN CRETE – 1970-PRESENT

Crete's entrance into the 1970s was marked by the running of the final passenger train through the city in 1971.⁸³ While the railroad remained an important mover of goods, it was no longer needed when most residents now had at least one vehicle per family to get themselves from one destination to the next. Movement of goods was supplemented with the overland trucking industry. As this mode of transportation grew, it began relying on state highways 33 and 103 through Crete, helping the town remain a commercial center.

Even though Crete's economy continued to rely on agriculture after the 1960s, it was increasingly diverse. The town began to attract a number of national manufacturing and service industries that constructed buildings on the outskirts of the city adjacent to the two highways. In 1965 ALPO Petfoods, Inc. built a factory at the northeast edge of the city along Highway 33/103. This facility was later taken over by the Nestle Purina PetCare Company.⁸⁴ Ten years later Farmland Production opened a plant along Highway 103 south of Crete and the city acquired its biggest employer to date.⁸⁵ This was fortunate as it offset the loss of one of the city's major industries when Fairmont Creamery closed its doors around 1975 after the company decided to shift its focus to convenience store operations.⁸⁶

During the 1970s, many towns throughout America, Crete included, were swept up preparing for the country's Bicentennial as a means to temporarily divert their attention from bleaker events like the Vietnam War and the Watergate Scandal. In 1975, the Crete Bicentennial Society, later called the Crete Heritage Society, formed in order to celebrate the nation's 200th anniversary by sponsoring a local project. The group chose to purchase and preserve a 20-acre tract of land that once comprised a portion of Jesse C. Bickle's 80-acre homestead and included Bickle's original log cabin and the Gothic Revival house he built around it. After years of fundraising efforts, the group successfully restored the building, and created a tourist and educational destination called "The Maples" where visitors can go to experience the city's history from where it first began.

The city's built fabric continued to evolve over the course of the 1970s. In 1976, the city demolished its 1918 high school so that the 1942 elementary school could be expanded. A new high school was then built in 1977 at the northeast part of the city.⁸⁷ Finally, in 1979, Band's Opera House, the city's first brick commercial building, was removed so that a new bank could be constructed on the site.⁸⁸

In the succeeding decades, the city has continued to mature, adding new buildings and renovating or removing older ones to accommodate its growing population and continued commercial success. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of residents in the city rose from 4,841 to 6,960. Many of these new residents are recent immigrants from Spanish speaking countries who moved to the city to work at the manufacturing plants that now make up the bulk of Crete's employment base. They and other residents also work in retailing, livestock, farming, education, healthcare, or the service industries

⁸³ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 40.

⁸⁴ Nestle Purina, "Living and Working in Crete," last modified November 2013, <https://www.nestlepurinacareers.com/blog/locations/crete/>

⁸⁵ City of Crete, "Crete Comprehensive Plan."

⁸⁶ Janet Jeffries Spencer, "To Make a Good Product Better: Fairmont Creamery Company, 1884-1984, *Nebraska History* 65 (1984), 392.

⁸⁷ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 51; City of Crete, "Crete Comprehensive Plan."

⁸⁸ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 86.

or run their own businesses. In recent decades, a number of Hispanic-owned restaurants, clothing stores and other businesses have filled many of the storefronts within the city's historic commercial core.⁸⁹

Today, the 1869 Crete Mills is now a subsidiary of Bungle Milling, and processes approximately 50,000 bushels of corn into grits, meals, and flours daily; the city's 1902 hospital has expanded into a 24-bed medical and surgical center; and the 1905 Douglas Manufacturing company continues to produce voting booths, along with an expanded line of related items, at the same site. More recent additions to the economic base include such national retailers as a Walmart Supercenter, a Verizon Wireless branch, a UPS store, and a branch of the Sid Dillon automobile retailer.

Doane College also continues to thrive. At present, the college contains nearly 30 buildings, has a student population of more than 1,000, and serves distance learners from satellite campuses in Lincoln and Grand Island.⁹⁰ Although the 1909 Fiske Lodge and 1909 Carnegie Science Building have both been demolished, many of the college's historic buildings have been remodeled in recent years, including Smith and Frees Halls.⁹¹ Boswell Observatory has also been remodeled. While it continues to function as a sky viewing facility utilizing the restored original telescope, it now also houses a museum for the display of historical equipment.⁹²

Today Doane College and the variety of industries and businesses present in Crete continue to make the city a thriving community of hardworking individuals.

⁸⁹ Kalkwarf, "Crete, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*; City of Crete, "Crete Comprehensive Plan"; Strategic Discussions for Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communication, "Immigration in Nebraska," 2007, accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.prairiefirenewspaper.com/files/201301-immigration-in-nebraska.pdf>.

⁹⁰ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 1961.

⁹¹ Doane College, "Smith Hall," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.doane.edu/smith-hall>.; Doane College, "Frees Hall."

⁹² Doane College, "Boswell Observatory," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.doane.edu/boswell-observatory>.

DEWITT

INTRODUCTION

DeWitt is located on the level bottom lands to the west of the Big Blue River near the southeastern corner of Saline County in Township 5, Sections 13 and 24. These broad and fertile bottom lands stretch west and south of DeWitt where Swan Creek flows into Turkey Creek, which in turn empties into the Big Blue River. By the early twentieth century, DeWitt was served by two railroads which transported the agricultural goods produced throughout the surrounding area. Later, another industry based on the "Vise-grip" locking pliers, contributed to DeWitt's economy.

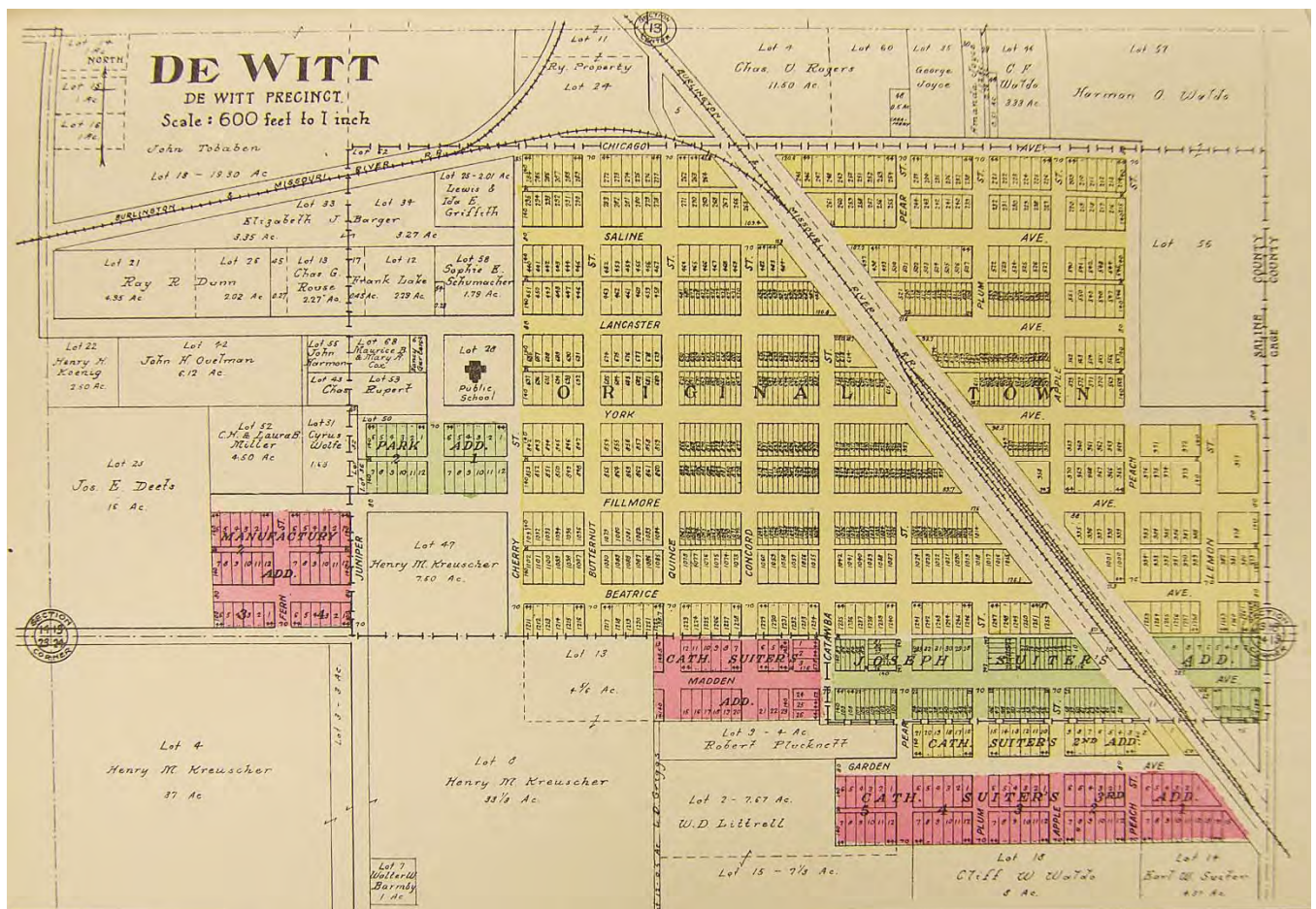


Figure 18: DeWitt Plat Map
(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY GROWTH (1870s-1899)

The town of DeWitt was surveyed by the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad after the railroad line was completed from Beatrice to Crete in 1872. Surveyed by the railroad town-site company, it was first known as Dennison after the secretary of a land company, John Dennison. Shortly after, at Dennison's request, the name was changed to DeWitt for his friend Reverend DeWitt Talmage, the Brooklyn Tabernacle's prominent Presbyterian preacher during the mid-to late nineteenth century.¹

The surrounding area was already settled prior to the establishment of DeWitt. The town of Swan City, west of DeWitt on Swan Creek, had already been in existence for a number of years. Because Swan City did not have easy access to a railroad, it was not long before many of the buildings and residents moved to DeWitt.

The community suffered a number of hardships during its early settlement. A grasshopper infestation in 1874 slowed growth and a devastating fire on January 8, 1875 burned nearly all of the business buildings. Despite losing the stock of most goods in the fires and having little or no insurance, business owners began rebuilding slowly until the mid-1880s. Other early fires included a mill in 1878 and during the following year, a large grain elevator. In addition on May 6, 1880, a destructive tornado tore through DeWitt. Although no one was killed by the tornado, it destroyed several buildings.²

By 1881, DeWitt was incorporated as a village and in the following year its population reached nearly 400, with many residents being German immigrants.³ By this time the commercial strip along Fillmore Avenue and Catawba Streets was firmly established. The village's streets were lined with a number of business ventures including a newspaper office, a bank, two hotels, a saloon, a post office,

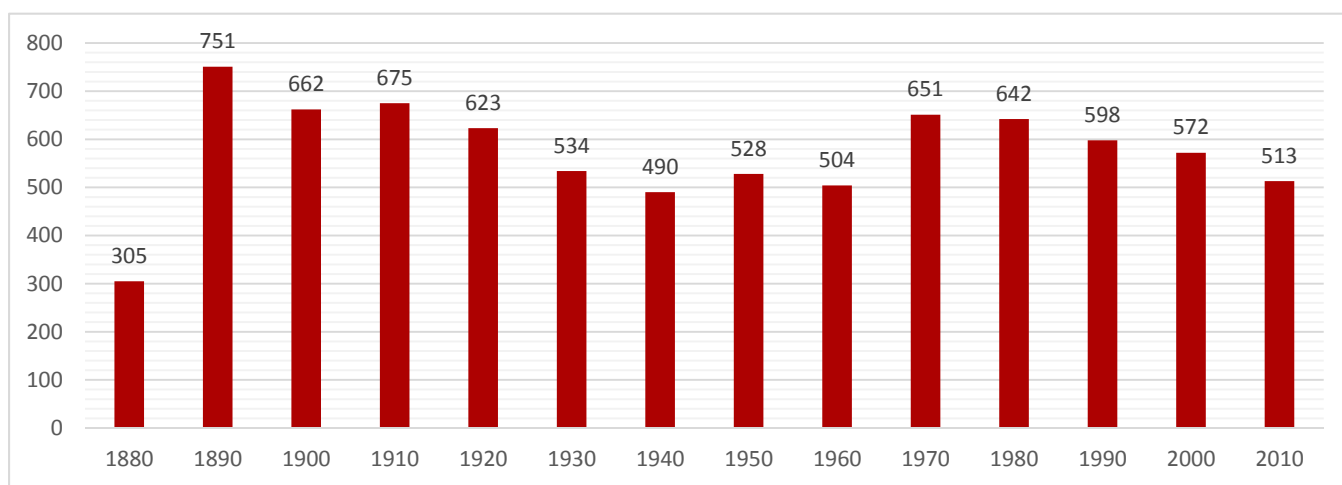


Figure 19: DeWitt Population
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015)

¹ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "DeWitt."

² Ibid.

³ Harriet Fort and Elma Wythers, "DeWitt, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff (Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988), accessed May 26, 2015, <http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/dewitt/>.



Figure 20: 204 York (SA02-043)
(Source: APMA 2015)

a veterinary hospital, a blacksmith shop, two elevators, two brick yards and approximately twenty different stores offering varying types of merchandise. During the same year the village boasted three churches, a school, three physicians, two attorneys, a real estate dealer, three insurance agents, two masons and plasterers along with twelve carpenters and builders.⁴

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, located at 208 North Quince Street, was one such church serving the DeWitt community in the 1880s. The congregation raised enough funds to construct the church in 1893. The building was designed by William Halsey Wood of Newark, New Jersey, lumber was provided by Lyman and Whiffen, the rock foundation laid by E.E. Jones of Wymore, Nebraska, woodwork completed by Milton Cox of DeWitt and volunteers preformed all the grading and hauling necessary to facilitate construction. On

August 28, 1893 the first services were held in the new building, which continues to serve the DeWitt community today.⁵

EXPANSION AND CHANGE (1900 – 1970s)

By the turn of the century, DeWitt's population had grown to over 600 people.⁶ It was served by both the Burlington railroad and Rock Island railroad. Within the first decade of the twentieth century, DeWitt boasted many new commercial buildings along Fillmore Avenue, new homes such as the Queen Anne Style home at 204 York Avenue, a new school building, a new Carnegie library and a telephone exchange. Operation of two elevator companies in town, one grain company a mile and a half south of town on the Rock Island railroad and the DeWitt Mills on the south bank of the Big Blue River a mile and a quarter east of town continued to process the fruits of this agricultural community.

The village saw many changes beginning in the 1920s. Some changes are directly reflected in the built environment such as new homes built during the 1920s and 1930s that stylistically differ from the majority of the city's late nineteenth and turn of the twentieth century homes. Examples would be the Arts and Crafts bungalows at 110 Fillmore Avenue and 209 York Avenue and American Four Square homes such as the Venrick Funeral Home at 202 Fillmore Avenue constructed in 1927. The funeral home had been in operation in the business district since 1916, but later relocated to this home and is still in operation under different ownership.

In addition, public and commercial buildings also reflected changes. The school was enlarged at its north end and movies were being shown at the Opera House and Rink. A number of filling stations sprouted up and public lights were electrified. Furthermore a patent, secured by William Petersen during this time would dramatically impact the village of DeWitt.

⁴ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "DeWitt."

⁵ Doris Dunn Peters, ed., *125 Years of History of DeWitt, Nebraska: It's Families, It's Community, 1872-1997*, (DeWitt, NE: DeWitt Historical Society, 1997), 277.

⁶ 1900 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska.

A Danish immigrant, Petersen arrived in Nebraska and opened a blacksmith shop. In order to hold and work on a piece of metal more easily, he combined the functions of a pliers and a vise creating the Vise Grip locking pliers. He was issued his first patent in 1921, a second patent in 1924 and began selling the handy invention to farmers and mechanics in surrounding towns.

In 1934 he formed the Petersen Manufacturing Company and four years later opened a manufacturing plant in an empty building downtown with a staff of 37. By 1941, the company was manufacturing thousands of Vise-Grips to fulfill government contracts during the war. After the war returning soldiers provided a huge market for the tool. Additional modifications to the design in the 1950s added to the Vise-Grips popularity. During the 1960s the company incorporated and opened a second plant in Cumberland, Wisconsin to manufacture twist drills. William Petersen's sons and daughter kept the business alive after his death in 1962. The company continued to grow, shipping their product overseas. By the mid-1970s, more than 30 percent of the 7 million tools made in DeWitt were sold abroad.⁷ Housing developments sprouted up beginning in the early 1960s and throughout the 1970s on the west side of town to keep pace with demand created by the employees of this thriving business. Ranch style homes such as 203 East York Avenue and 106 North Fern Circle are typical.

Despite the growth of Petersen Manufacturing Company, DeWitt faced the same challenges of many small towns. The advent of the automobile greatly impacted the longevity of other local businesses since residents could drive to larger communities for many goods and services. The automobile also impacted the railroads and as early as 1942 the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad company was asking the Nebraska State Railway Commission for authority to close its station in DeWitt.⁸

By the early 1960s plans were underway to consolidate many rural high schools in the surrounding areas of Gage, Jefferson and Saline County. "On October 4, 1966, voters passed a special bond issue for the building and equipping of a new junior-senior high school."⁹ ¹⁰ Built four miles south of Dewitt, the junior-senior high school Tri-County opened for the 1967-68 school year. DeWitt continued to maintain its elementary school at the northwest corner of Cherry Street and York Avenue.

MODERN DEWITT (1980-PRESENT)

The 1980s marked many changes in DeWitt. In 1981 another special school bond election was held to build an elementary school on the Tri County site. The bond issue passed and DeWitt's elementary school dismissed its final class of students in the spring of 1982. The



Figure 21: South side of Fillmore between Concord and Quince (SA02-063)
(Source: APMA 2015)

⁷ Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele, *The Betrayal of the American Dream* (NY: Public Affairs a Member of the Perseus Books Group, 2012), 75.

⁸ Nebraska State Railway Commission, *Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, 1942*, 22.

⁹ Tri-County Schools, "History of Tri County Schools," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.tricountyschools.org/About/History.html>.

¹⁰ In addition to surrounding rural schools in Gage, Jefferson and Saline Counties, the reorganization plan included the DeWitt School District #6, the Plymouth School District #98 and the Swanton School District #113.

elementary wing at Tri-County was ready for students the following fall. In addition, 1985 marked changes at the Peterson Manufacturing Company when the Petersen family formed the American Tool Companies, Inc. which grew from a 42 million dollar company into 500 million dollar company by the 1990s.¹¹ In 2002 the American Tool Companies was sold to Newel Rubbermaid, which closed the DeWitt plant at end of October 2008 and moved production overseas.

Despite the closure of the factory and loss of 330 jobs, Dewitt's population has remained consistent between 2000 and 2010.¹² The town continues to rely on agriculture as its principle economic driver.

¹¹ Graydon Megan, "Allen D. Petersen: 1941-2007," *Chicago Tribune*, November 2, 2007.

¹² Joelyn Hansen, "Closing a Chapter," *Beatrice Daily Sun*, September 3, 2008.

DORCHESTER

INTRODUCTION

Dorchester is located on level prairie three miles south of the West Big Blue River and three miles north of Turkey Creek in Township 8, Section 20. Located approximately 3 ½ miles south of the northern border of Saline County and eight miles west of Crete, Dorchester was officially platted in 1871. The community is currently served by the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway and Nebraska Highway 33. Approximately 95% of the village's residents commute to work via these highways.¹ Over 60% of the area's population are of German or Czech heritage while other smaller ancestries include Irish, English and Dutch.²

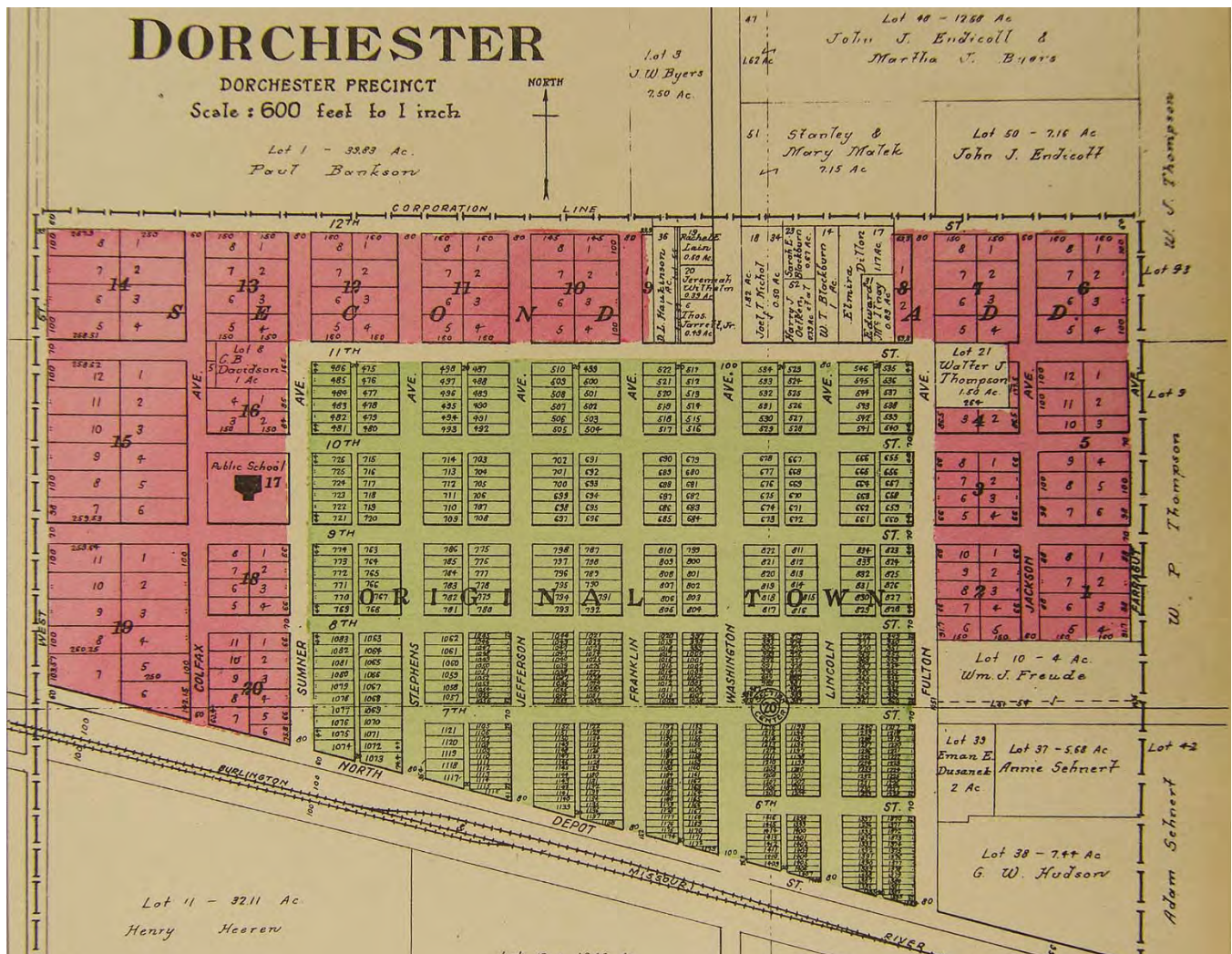


Figure 22: Dorchester Plat Map

(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

¹ Dorchester Times, "Dorchester: A Good Little Family Town," accessed April 6, 2015, <http://dorchesterimes.blogspot.com/>

² City-Data-Dorchester, accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.city-data.com/city/Dorchester-Nebraska.html>.

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY GROWTH (1870-1900)

In 1870 the South Platte Land Company, a subsidiary of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad selected a site in the northern part of Saline County for the town of Dorchester. The town site was originally named DeWitt, but because the name was already used elsewhere in Nebraska, Dorchester was chosen for either for its association with the neighborhood in Boston or the city in England.

Since the railroad did not already own the land where Dorchester was to be located, it had to be secured from the United States government. To fulfill the homestead requirements, the town site company sent four men to homestead 640 acres. Each man claimed 160 acres and a house was built in the center of the 640 acre section so that a portion of the house stood as an improvement on each quarter section claim.³

The original town plat was composed of 31 square blocks organized in the "T" railroad town form. In this form, the community develops on one side of the tracks with the main commercial street perpendicular to the railroad.⁴ In this instance, Dorchester's original town plat was organized on the north side of the railroad tracks.

The railroad was completed to the town site by July of 1871 and the community temporarily served as the end of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad line. During that year businesses in town included a post office, a hotel, two general stores, a dry goods store, two barbers, and a lumber / coal yard. According to Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, only a few additions were made to the settlement of the town in the next few years. While the impact of the financial depression triggered in 1873 or the 1874 grasshopper plague may have contributed to idle growth, the immediacy of the county seat, Pleasant Hill, approximately four miles south and two miles east of Dorchester also had an impact.

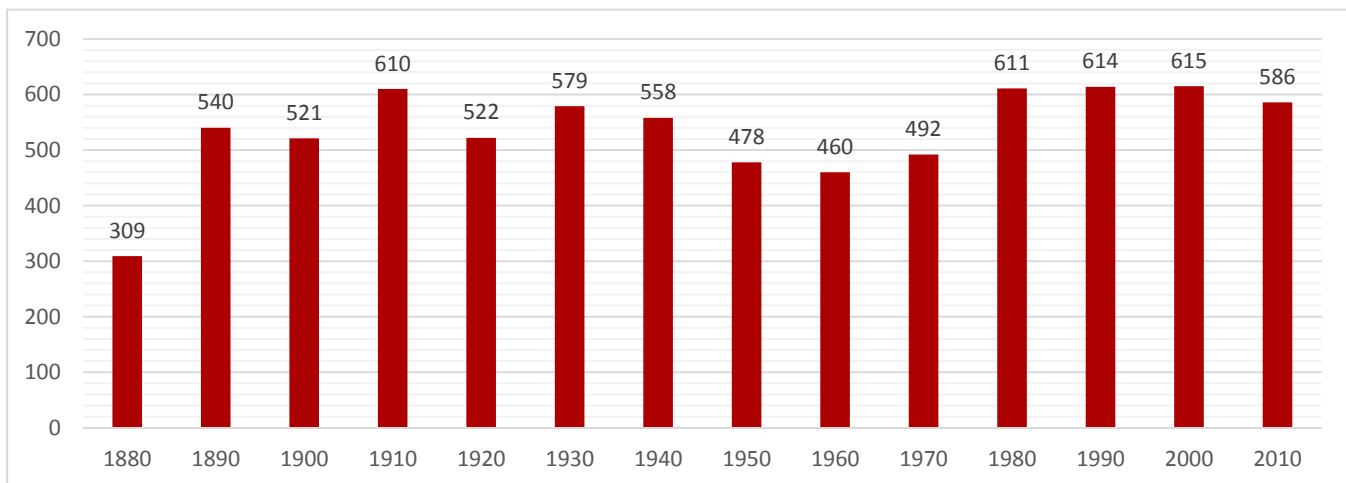


Figure 23: Dorchester Population
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015)

³ John C. Hudson, "Towns of the Western Railroads," *Great Plains Quarterly*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1982, accessed April 6, 2015, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2671&context=greatplainsquarterly>.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 47.

When the county seat was moved from Pleasant Hill to Wilber, some businessmen relocated to Dorchester. In addition a number of buildings in Pleasant Hill were purchased and physically moved to Dorchester. By the late 1870s, Dorchester's businesses had grown to include additional general stores, hotels, livery stables, barbers, dry good stores, taverns, a millinery shop, blacksmiths, a carpenter, drug stores, a hardware store, harness shop, lawyers, a mill and a train depot. In 1880, Dorchester had a population of approximately 300 and one year later was incorporated as a village.⁵ The main business district was located in buildings which lined both sides of Washington Avenue typically between 8th and 6th Streets. By 1882 local histories state that Dorchester had 500 residents and 90 buildings. Thirty-five of these buildings were businesses and/or public houses.⁶ Wooden sidewalks lined the commercial district and by 1883 lined the north and south sides of 7th Street, the north side of 8th Street and Franklin Avenue.⁷

Because of drought, lower land prices, lower prices on agricultural commodities and the economic depression begun in 1893, the early 1890s were years of hardship in Dorchester. In addition to national economic difficulties, locally a fire destroyed most buildings in the main business district in 1896. Despite the difficulties, the population remained consistently above 500 people between 1890 and 1900 although 28 businesses closed during this period.⁸

CHANGE (1900-1920s)

As the national economy rebounded and confidence in the agricultural markets was restored, the village of Dorchester continued to grow. In 1903 area farmers organized a cooperative association and built a 15,000 bushel elevator.⁹ Two years later 247 phones were installed in the Dorchester area initially operated two telephone systems, an independent telephone company and American Telephone and Telegraph.¹⁰ In June of the same year, wooden sidewalks on the east side of Washington Avenue's business district were replaced with brick and installation of brick was planned for others.

By 1910 the population had grown to 610 residents.¹¹ The first electric lights appeared in Dorchester in 1910 powered by the Pleasant Hill Mill water wheel. Three years later another fire blazed



Figure 24: Bank Building (SA03-025)
(Source: Left – Dorchester Times; Right - APMA, 2015)

⁵ Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Centennial History Committee, *History of the Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Communities, Saline County, Nebraska: 1881-1981 Centennial Celebration*, (Dorchester, NE: s.n., 1981), 61.

⁶ Ibid., 62.

⁷ Ibid., 83.

⁸ Ibid., 63.

⁹ Ibid., 64. The organization was still owned by approximately 900 agricultural producers around the Dorchester area in 1981. At that time the elevator had the capacity to hold 1,712,000 bushels of grain.

¹⁰ Ibid. By 1912 it seems these telephone service companies consolidated.

¹¹ 1910 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska.

downtown. At this time water was still provided by a town well, windmill and cisterns. Because the electrical and water systems were not dependable, Dorchester residents approved a bond issue to improve both systems. The new water works was completed in 1914 along with a volunteer fire department and the electrical plant was installed two years later. Unfortunately regardless of these improvements, fires continued to destroy buildings in the business district throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Despite the dramatic rise of farm prices during and immediately after World War I and a declining population, Dorchester continued to see civic improvements. In 1924 some streets were graded to facilitate the installation of curbs, gutters and gravel. A new school building was constructed three years later and by 1928 the village's electrical distribution system was repaired or rebuilt as needed. In addition, the Dorchester Telephone building was constructed in the late 1920s to house Dorchester's switchboard and operators.

THE MID-CENTURY (1930s-1960s)

During the depression years of the early 1930s, many businesses closed. Although the village retained some practitioners (doctors, lawyers, etc.), most left their practices in Dorchester. All three banks in town were liquidated. Despite these hardships during the early 1930s, faith in the economy slowly returned as time passed. This was aided by the failed Bank of Dorchester restoring 100 percent of their depositors' holdings by 1938.¹² Civic projects such as a new sewage system installation, funded by the Public Works Administration program, and paving of Washington Avenue signaled improvement.

By the early 1940s, the highway was paved between Dorchester and Crete, making it easier to travel to Wilber and Lincoln. Road improvements throughout the country, such as Nebraska Highway 33, along with other factors, continued to negatively impact the popularity of the railroad. This was reflected in Dorchester when the train depot was closed. It was later moved to the Saline County Museum.

Despite a declining population in Dorchester during and after World War II, family farms experienced a period of recovery and relative prosperity. This was a result of the high agricultural production required to meet the needs of the war, advancing agricultural technologies and increased use of irrigation in the area. During this time a number of quonsets, extant on the west side of town, were constructed for the storage of grain. Funding for construction of these buildings was provided in part by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in an effort to stabilize agricultural prices.



Figure 25: 604 West 9th Street (SA03-053)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

¹² Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Centennial, *History of the Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Communities*, 65.

Flooding in the mid-1940s and through the 1950s motivated landowners to develop conservation programs through land management in the following decades. The Dorchester Water Conservancy District was officially dedicated and worked to implement flooding and erosion control practices throughout the countryside surrounding Dorchester. These practices included constructing floodwater-retarding structures and encouraged landowners to construct terraces and reseed pastures to control erosion.



Figure 26: 106 East 10th Street (SA03-047)

(Source: APMA, 2015)

In 1960, Dorchester's population reached its lowest point since 1880 dropping to 460 residents.¹³ In the succeeding decades the village strove to make improvements including a 1963-64 addition to the school, installing a new water well and pump, expanding the corporate limits of the village when land south of Highway 33 was annexed in 1966, constructing a new post office in 1967.

GROWTH AND STABILITY (1970-PRESENT)

Dorchester's population began to grow beginning in the late 1960s and accelerating in the 1970s. The village again expanded its civic boundaries with the annexation of the third district in 1978, constructed a waste water treatment plant and other municipal water expansions and improvements, built a new fire hall to house additional equipment and completed major street improvements throughout the village in 1979. The population increase has been attributed to the availability of jobs in Crete at the time including Alpo, Farmland, Formfit and the Crete Mills.¹⁴ In addition, the general increase in land values and agricultural production contributed to the prosperity of the area.

The prosperity of the 1970s family farm was one small factor that contributed to the farm crisis of the early 1980s when farm prices dropped and many farmers were trapped in overwhelming debt. Although the county's rural population declined, the population in Dorchester remained constant. This may have been in part to the resident population employed in Crete or farm families who moved to town as a result of either farm foreclosure or simply retiring. Regardless, the population has remained around 600 since the 1980s through 2000. When the 2010 census was recorded, Dorchester had a population of 586 which is not far from the 615 people who called Dorchester home ten years prior. The community continues to make financial investments in their future. In 2008, the 1927 high school building was demolished to make way for a new elementary, junior and high school building at a cost of \$4.1 million. The school currently has a K-12 enrollment of 230-250 students. During the same year a new park shelter was constructed. In 2014 Dorchester's Farmers' Cooperative broke ground on an expansion to its corporate headquarters and construction of a new silo at a cost of just under \$2 million.¹⁵ Currently the cooperative operates 50 facilities throughout Nebraska and Kansas from its corporate offices in Dorchester. The state of Nebraska also further committed to remain in the village by doubling the size of their existing Department of Roads facility.

¹³ 1960 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska.

¹⁴ Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Centennial, *History of the Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Communities*.

¹⁵ Dorchester Times, "Dorchester: A Good Little Family Town."

FRIEND

INTRODUCTION

Friend is located in the northwestern corner of Saline County in Friend Township (Township 8, Range 1), Sections 14 and 23. The community is situated “on the high and rolling upland prairies” midway between Turkey Creek on the south and Johnson Creek on the north.¹ Currently served by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and U.S. Highway 6, the city of Friend remains an important hub for the surrounding agriculturally rich area.

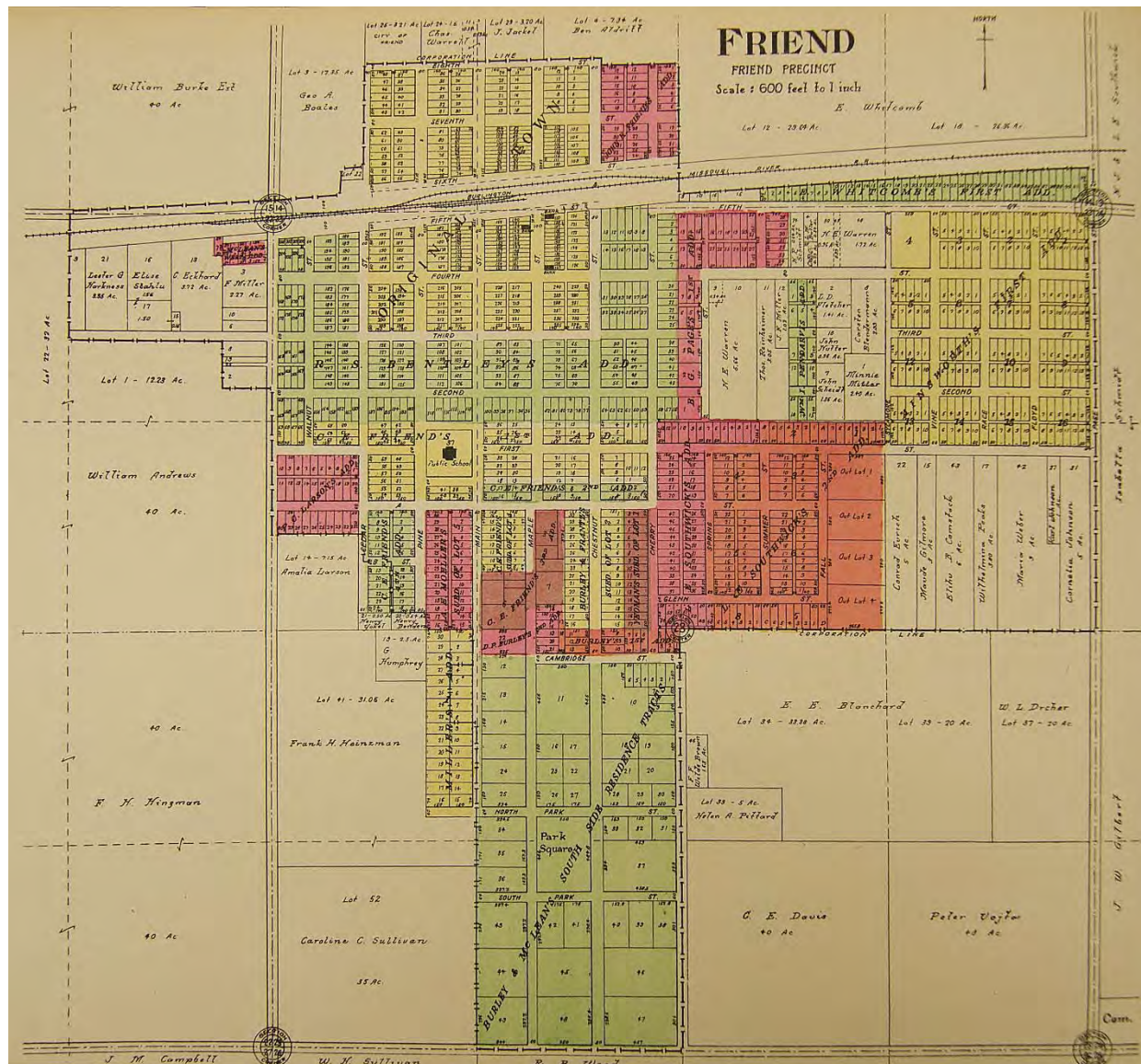


Figure 27: Friend Plat Map
(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

¹ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, “Saline County,” “Friend.”

SETTLEMENT & THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE, 1860s-1874

The city site was first settled by Charles E. Friend in 1870. Friend was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1847, but moved to Illinois with his parents five years later. During his youth he worked in a number of general stores and by 1869 was moving further west. After working through the harvest season in Poweshiek County, Iowa, Friend took his team of horses and found work earth grading for the railroad in Nebraska. In the spring of 1870 he established an 80 acre homestead on the railroad route in Saline County where the community of Friend now stands. After spending the winter of 1870 in Lincoln, he returned to his homestead the following spring with an assortment of goods and opened his own store. He petitioned for a post office and authorities named the office "Friendville" in August of 1871.²

The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad was completed through the area during the same year, but it was not until 1873 that a depot was built. C.E. Friend had deeded almost three-quarters of his land to the railroad town company and the original town plat was surveyed. The frontier town was composed of 16 square blocks organized in the orthogonal railroad town form where the railroad bisected Main Street.³ When the railroad station was completed, it was named "Friend," which later became the official name of the town.⁴

By the summer of 1874, the population of Friend had grown considerably. The town boasted a blacksmith shop, two general stores, and a single-story hotel with a second larger hotel beginning construction, a hardware store and lumber yard. Then, like most towns throughout Nebraska and elsewhere in the Midwest, Friend was substantially impacted by the 1874 grasshopper plague, which devastated crops.

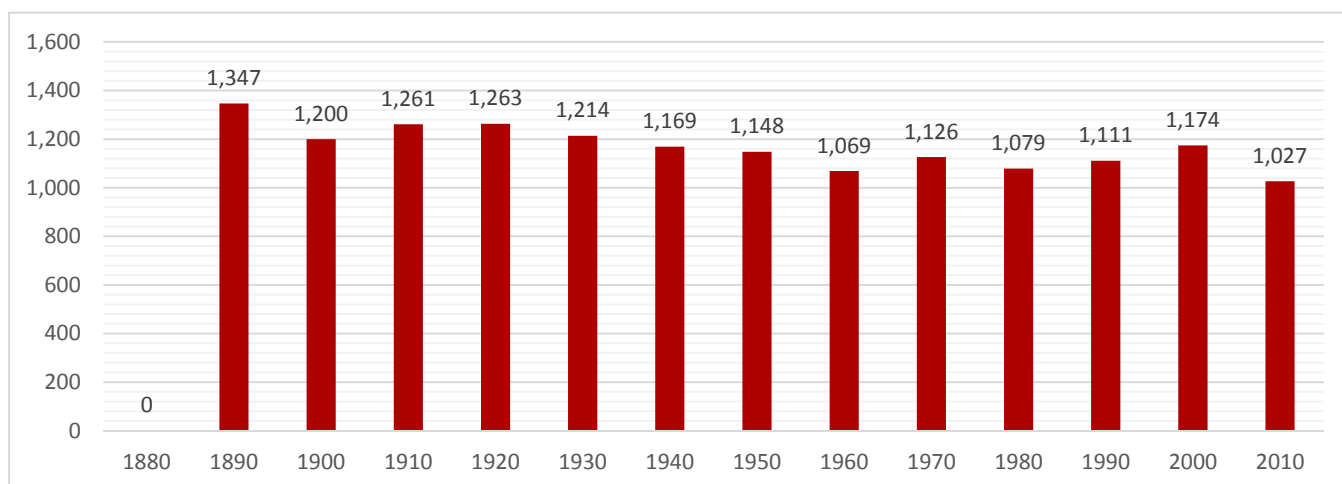


Figure 28: Friend Population
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015)

² *Friend Centennial, 1871-1971* (Friend, NE: Friend Jaycees, 1971), 13.

³ Hudson, "Towns of the Western Railroads," 47.

⁴ Darlene Shippen and Dorothy Kelso, "Friend, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff. Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988. Accessed May 26, 2015.
<http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/friend/>.

EARLY GROWTH, 1875-1910s

By 1876, the village began to grow once again, settled further by people of differing nationalities and many American-born citizens moving west. The town's population was estimated at 900 when it was incorporated on June 19, 1882.⁵

Like so many railroad towns originally platted in the "orthogonal" form, the community of Friend actually developed on one side of the tracks, in this case the south. The business district primarily developed along Maple Street, between 1st Street (at that time known as 4th Street) and 2nd Street (previously known as 5th Street). More industrial enterprises, including grain elevators and storage facilities located on the north side of the tracks.

Community members were active in a number of societies and organizations including the Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Friendville Lodge, A. F. and A. M., Independent Order of Good Templars, Psychological Society and a District Agricultural Society. In 1882 the District Agricultural Society hosted a fair for Saline, Fillmore, York and Seward counties in Friend. A large dining hall, an exhibit hall, stalls for horses and pens for other livestock, a race track and a grandstand were built for the event.⁶

The town was thriving and by 1887 enterprises found in and around the business district included banks, dry goods stores, grocery stores, drug stores, a jewelry store, confectionary, bakery, clothing stores, notions, barber, photographers, cobbler, tailor, cigar factory, ice house, hardware stores, furniture store, wallpaper/print shop, harness shops, tin shop, agricultural implement dealerships, wagon shops, lumber yards, grain elevators, blacksmiths, carpenters, billiards hall, saloons, newspaper, hotels, restaurants, Warren Opera House, churches, a two-story school house and many residences. In addition, Turkey Creek provided enough water power to support several flouring mills south of town.

Although Friend's population reached its peak at 1,347 residents in 1890, its economy continued to prosper throughout the early 1900s. William Burke's Grain Elevator at Maple and A Street (previously known as 6th Street) was reconstructed and enlarged from 25,000 to 120,000 bushel capacity in 1898. Another grain elevator was constructed on the north side of the railroad tracks west of Main Street a few years later.



Figure 29: 127 & 131 Maple Street. Lusk Bro's and Johnson Building. Built 1887. (SA04-084)
(Source: APMA 2015)



Figure 30: 801 Maine Street. Built 1916. (SA04-075)
(Source: APMA 2015)

⁵ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Friend."

⁶ Shippen and Kelso, "Friend, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

The Fairmont Creamery Company also operated a facility $\frac{3}{4}$ miles southeast of town.

By 1902 the Burlington Missouri River Railroad constructed a new brick train depot at Maple and 1st Street (previously 5th Street) and a new city hall building was constructed at Maple Street and 3rd Street (non-extant). By 1909 the public school constructed a new building and four churches either constructed new buildings or made significant additions to their existing buildings. A new bank building replaced the bank building at the northeast corner of Maple and 2nd Street (previously 4th Street). In 1916 the Gilbert Public Library was constructed and opened to the public. The benefactor, Mr. John W. Gilbert, served as one of the county's first assessors and later as the local representative in the State of Nebraska's Unicameral.

The community offered many venues for entertainment. In the early 1900s Friend was a hub for dog racing in the area. A race track on the northeast fringes of Friend attracted breeders from as far as Chicago and Kansas City who brought the racing canines into town to compete. Spectators arrived in private railroad cars or chartered automobiles staying a week or more in town. A second opera house, the San Carlo (non-extant), opened in 1908 and seven years later the Elite movie theater opened.

1920s-1970s

The popularity of United States Highway 6, continued to grow as automobile use increased. In Friend, the highway runs adjacent to the railroad tracks on the south. By the 1920s, automobile related businesses began to operate in a number of locations. The increased use of the automobile led to better conditioned roads and by the mid- 1930s U.S. Highway 6 was paved.



Figure 31: 303 1st Street. Built after 1933.
(SA04-017)
(Source: APMA 2015)



Figure 32: 508 2nd Street. Kahm's Garage.
(SA04-080)
Kahm Brothers started a harness shop on the northeast corner of 2nd and Main Street prior to 1900. The company built a two-story brick building which was destroyed by fire. In 1918 this this one-story brick building was constructed with a car port, which is currently infilled.
(Source: APMA 2015)

Despite the depression of the 1930s the Friend community was able to establish and build a hospital in 1933. Norman E. Warren bequeathed land and money to facilitate the new building. After the depression of the 1930s, farmers greatly increased their production with new farm technologies. More storage facilities, a new elevator, grain rollers and feed mill were added to Friend's existing infrastructure to meet the increased need.

The 1940s, 50s and 60s saw a number of changes to existing community components and the additions of others. A 1940 fire destroyed the two-story brick school building and two years later a new larger brick building was completed on the same site. In 1943 the Friend Grange No. 390, a fraternal organization was formed. Organized to support enterprises that create community spirit and build fellowship, the group constructed a hall at the northwest corner of Main and Second Streets. Dedicated in 1956 the Friend Grange Hall now serves as Friend's Community Center. Other improvements in town during this time included forty-two blocks of street paving and the construction of 71 new dwelling units through the 1960s.⁷ In 1967 construction on the 63-bed hospital addition was begun and completed four years later. Although the original 1933 building was demolished, the addition features distinctive angular window hoods and a concrete architectural screen block wall.

By 1970 Friend featured a number of new facilities including a new post office, medical office building, mortuary, bath house for the swimming pool, a country club with a nine-hole golf course and Friendship Terrace, a thirty unit senior citizen housing development.

1980s-PRESENT

Between 1980 and today the population of Friend has stayed fairly consistent fluctuating between 1,000 to 1,200 people. Many new homes have been constructed on the east side of town and new or existing businesses along Maple Street continued to occupy and maintain the existing structures including First National Bank (now Citizens State Bank), Blue Blossom Floral (135 Maple Street), Friend Sentinel (130 Maple Street) and Johnson Pharmacy (151 Maple Street). The entrepreneurial and hardworking spirit which founded Friend continues to sustain the heart of this agricultural community.



Figure 33: 501 Main Street. Friend Public School. (SA04-027)
Built 1940 with additions in 1955, 1968.
(Source: 2015 APMA)

⁷ This number does not include Friendship Terrace which was completed in 1967 and expanded in 1971.

SWANTON

INTRODUCTION

Swanton is centered in Swan Creek Township (Township 5, Range 3) Sections 22 and 27 close to the southern edge of Saline County. The town site grid is overlaid on gently sloping land just north of Swan Creek and 10 miles west of DeWitt along County Road "W". Located at a convenient interval along the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad, the town served as a shipping point for the crops grown on the surrounding farms until overland trucking surpassed the railroads for this purpose. Today the town serves as a small government service and social center for the surrounding agricultural community.

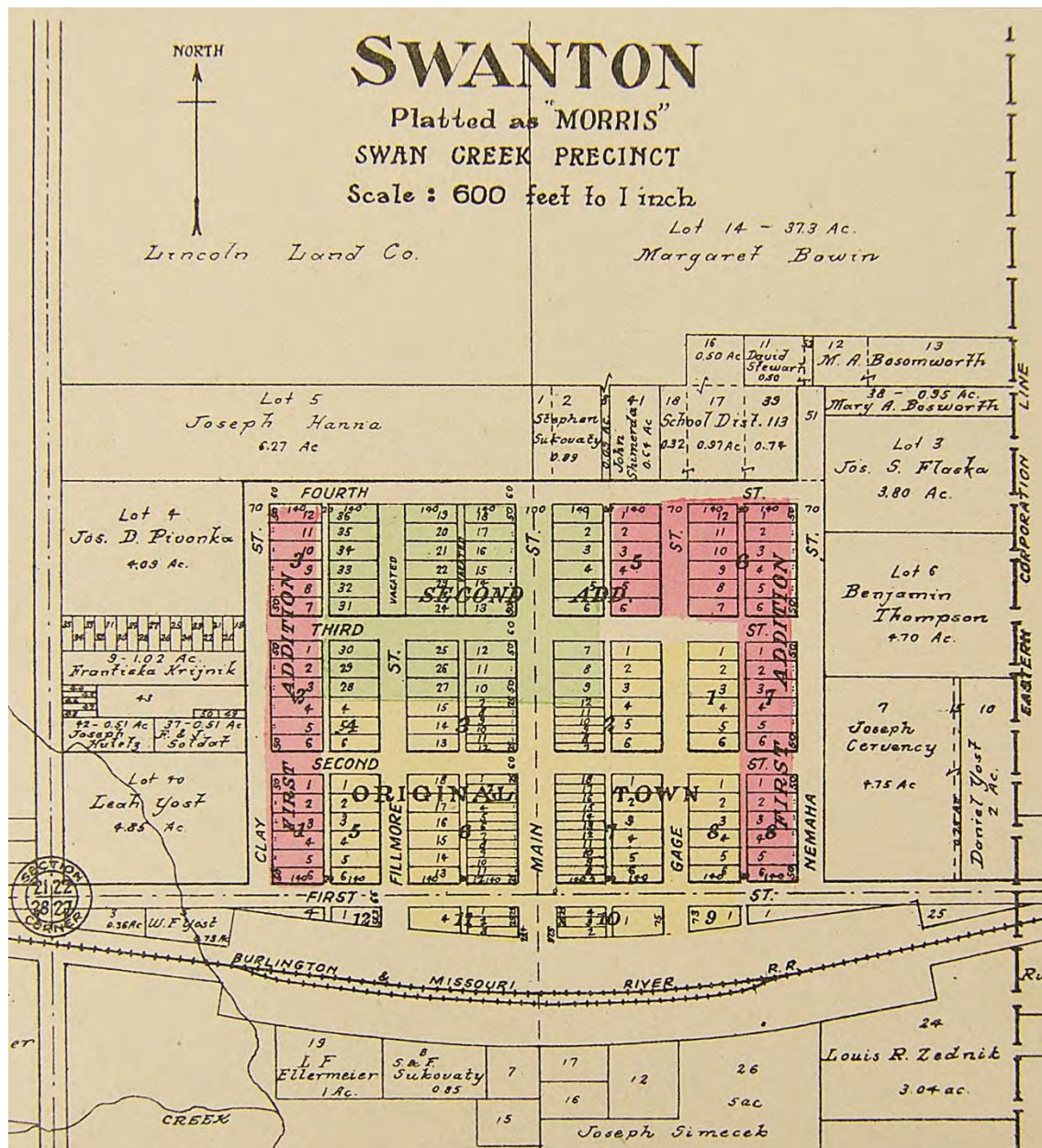


Figure 34: Swanton Plat Map

(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY GROWTH (1884-1900)

In the 1860s, Loundon City was established between DeWitt and Tobias at a comfortable distance for local farmer's to get to market and home within a day's horse-drawn wagon drive. The town boasted a church, post office, school, store and several homes.¹ With the railroad forces at work however, the town was short-lived.

To fund their construction, railroad companies kept their right-of-way, but sold their remaining government land grants for an average of \$6 per acre.² This was initially done through land agents; however, to assist in the sale of this land, in 1880 the Burlington Railroad formed the South Platte Land Company and Lincoln Land Company, which were charged with taking care of all the details necessary for developing town sites.³ As the Lincoln Land Company was platting towns in this area, it insisted that the depot be built on higher ground than that available in Loundon City.⁴ Thus, although Loundon City was already established, a new town site was developed just 1 ½ miles to its east in 1884, with land the Lincoln Land Company purchased from Charles Caldwell, J.C. Deweese, Albert Cornish, and C. Shepherd.⁵ Early settlers in the new town noted the absence of trees and the clear water of the creek; "so clear fish could be seen swimming in it year round."⁶

The town initially applied to the postal authorities under the name of Morris, but this was rejected as similar or identical to another approved town. The name Swanton was next proposed, presumably because of the town's adjacency to Swan Creek, and this was accepted.

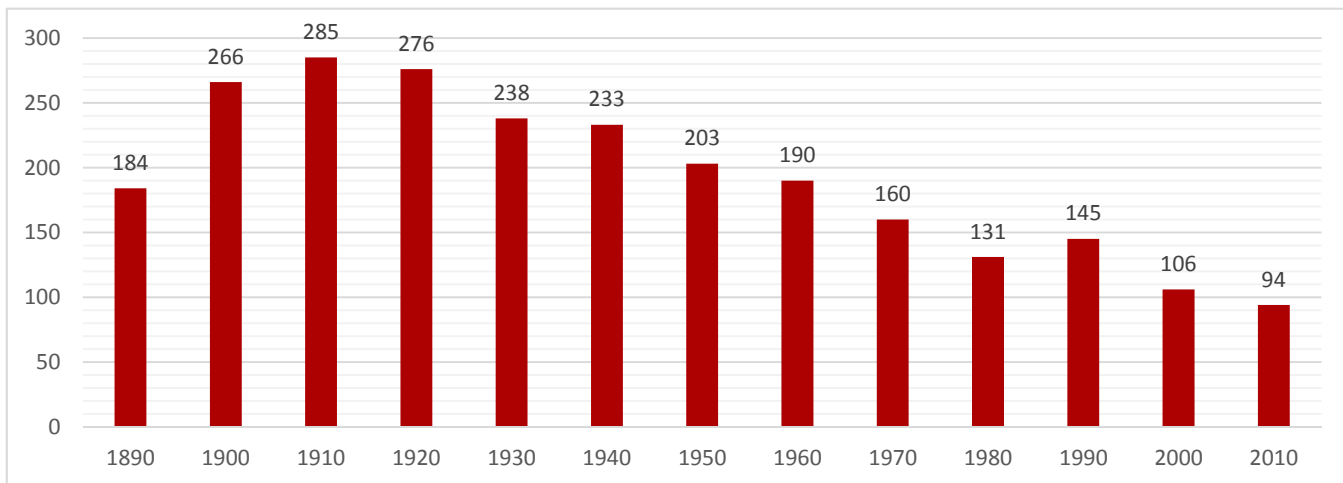


Figure 35: Swanton Population
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015)

¹ Rose Marie Hulse. "Swanton, Saline County" in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff. Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988. Accessed May 26, 2015.
<http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/swanton/>.

² Jim McKee, "Fairmont Creamery – from Fortune 500 to an antique Mall." *Lincoln Journal Star*. April 7, 2014.

³ McKee, "Fairmont Creamery – from Fortune 500 to an antique Mall."

⁴ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984 Centennial Commemorative Album*, (Swanton, Nebraska: Swanton Centennial Committee, 1985), 25.

⁵ University of Nebraska-Lincoln, *Virtual Nebraska*, "Swanton."

⁶ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984*, 5.

Swanton grew quickly in its first two decades, reaching populations of 184 in 1890 and 260 in 1900.⁷ Residents were a mix of ethnic groups, initially including Irish, Germans and English, and later adding Czech and Dutch.⁸ To house the new residents, a mixture of folk Victorian, pyramidal cottages, and “L” shaped cottages spread out among the residential lots.

To support these inhabitants, commercial and institutional buildings were also quickly erected, led by the construction of a railroad depot, a new post office and a school.⁹ Two churches were built soon after, the Evangelical Church and Swanton United Methodist Church. During the following two decades, the original school building was quickly expanded with two more frame buildings. The two-story framed Swanton Hotel was constructed at the southeast corner of First and Main Streets.¹⁰ Other buildings included a livery, two blacksmith shops and the Richtarik Building. In 1890, the Village Board of Trustees required every business owner to construct a wooden sidewalk in front of their establishment that was seven feet wide.¹¹ This included the newly founded Bank of Swanton, one lot in from the northwest corner of First and Main Streets. It was followed in 1892 by the construction of the Clark Block, a two story brick building on that corner.



Figure 36: The west side of Main Street before the 1914 fire.

(Source: Swanton Centennial)



Figure 37: The west side of Main Street today. (SA06-028)

(Source: APMA 2015)

EXPANSION (1900-1913)

Swanton's population peaked in 1910, at 285 residents. While the population slowly declined over the next two decades the town continued to develop, constructing new business and residential buildings and making infrastructure improvements. Single family residences during this period continued the simple building traditions established earlier that did not embody a defined architectural style.

Implement and hardware stores were vital to the surrounding farm community, and Swanton saw a large number of them come and go. The following establishments lasted the longest. Louis Nispel opened an implement dealership in 1900 on the west side of Main Street, which was bought out by Chaloupka and Son in 1914, and was renamed E.H. Chaloupka Hardware by 1926. In 1905, J.J. and Mike Fitl and Mike Placek opened a combination implement store and blacksmith shop in the middle of the east side of Main Street, which stayed in business until 1910. A short time later, J.J. Fitl opened

⁷ 1890 and 1900 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska

⁸ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984*, 5.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 5

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 22.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 16

a hardware and furniture store in the north half of the Richtarik Building. This business lasted until 1923. During this time, the company also worked as local agents for Buick automobiles.

A variety of butcher shops, cafes, taverns, pool halls, grocery and mercantile stores rounded out the businesses along the bustling commercial strip. Several companies moved between buildings, while others remained constant. One of the more notable businesses was the Busing General Mercantile Store.

Civic buildings during the first decade of the twentieth century included the construction of a new school building, a library and the Town Hall. The multiple framed school buildings were replaced in 1909 with a single two-story brick edifice. The new structure allowed the school district to offer the eleventh grade. Four years later, the twelfth grade was also added. The library moved into its own building in 1904. Organized in 1890, it was originally located within various local business establishments. After being forced to move several times for various reasons, in 1904 the library committee purchased the town's "pest house", a small residential building the early settlers used to contain people with infectious diseases, moved it to a donated lot and converted it for their purposes. A Town Hall was constructed in 1913. Before then, the town had rented meeting space in the buildings of various local businesses. The new building came complete with a jail as well as a meeting hall. A second popular place for meetings was the Woodman of the World building. Built in 1912, their hall was used by many other social groups in Swanton, as well as the general public for weddings and receptions. A stage was added to the auditorium of the Woodman building in 1915.

CHANGE (1914-1929)

The downtown suffered a significant setback in 1914 when a severe fire burned four buildings to the ground, including the bank, post office, butcher shop and windmill shop. The flanking buildings, the Clark Building to the south and a confectionary shop to the north, suffered smoke and water damage. The town quickly passed a resolution that all new buildings were to be constructed of brick, purchased a wagon and fire-fighting chemicals and modified the rear of the Town Hall to shelter the wagon.¹² In 1923, the rent on the land under the library was deemed too expensive, and the library was relocated to a donated lot on the south side of First Street between Nemaha and Gage Streets.

Swanton's utility services were begun in 1917 when Louis Ellermeier and S.C. Caldwell formed the Swanton Electric Company. They built a stucco building on the south side of First and Gage Streets for the generators. The city gave them a franchise to provide lighting and the company installed poles on the town's streets and alleys. However, the cost was more than the town's government had anticipated, so lights were turned off at 11 PM during the week, 1 AM Saturday

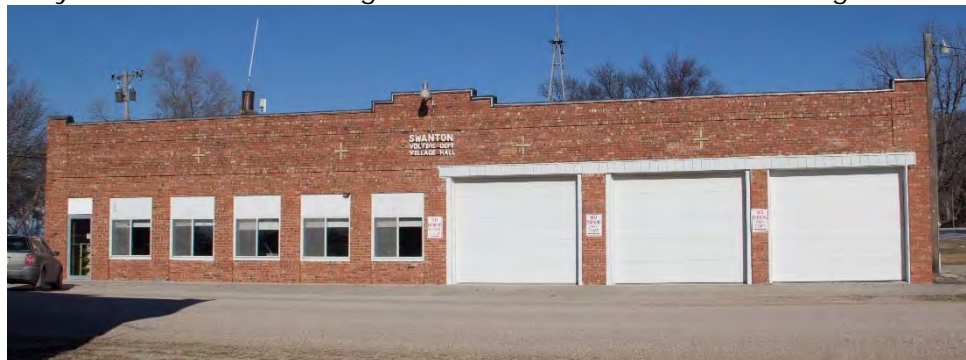


Figure 38: Yost Building (SA06-021)
(Source: APMA 2015)

¹² *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984*, 7.

night, and 2 AM on dance nights.¹³

The second decade of the twentieth century saw the rise in popularity of the automobile. In 1917, Daniel Yost constructed the brick building one-half block east of Main Street on First Street, where he sold numerous Fords, as well as the Pullman Junior, Regal, Enger Twin and Hollier Eight. He also sold gasoline and performed automobile repairs. With such growth in the automobile industry, the livery closed in 1919. Around this same time, with fewer railroad passengers, the hotel business was declining and new ownership looked for other uses for the building.

By 1926, the town boasted two elevators to handle all the grain being shipped through town and had several successful stores to its credit. Most popular though, was the Peppy Elm Pavilion with regular dances every Friday night. Located on the west side of Main Street just south of First Street, the open air dance floor was 60' x 60'. It was built and run by E.J. Fikar and Edward Karpisek.¹⁴

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WWII (1930-1945)

The 1930s were a transformative time for the town's infrastructure. In 1931, Swanton Electrical Company was sold to Cornhusker Electric Company, and then the Iowa-Nebraska Light Company.¹⁵ This turn-over was followed in 1936 with the addition of water service when Swanton built a water tower and began provide water service to all residents. Meeting minutes from the Village Board of Trustees in 1935 show that the town had funds for general work, lights, streets, water works and amusement. This last was used to pay for free movies, a town band, the library and (later) visits by Santa at Christmas.¹⁶

During this period, services for Swanton's residents also saw significant changes. As the state highway system developed, Swanton was by-passed in favor of a route to the west, closer to the larger town of Western. Better road conditions and an increase in trucking were some of the factors in the shift of mail service from delivery by railroad to delivery by truck. In Swanton, mail service by railroad was discontinued in the late 1930s.¹⁷ Additionally, the Swanton fire department was reorganized in 1936 and was very active in the late 1930s, recruiting 40 volunteer fire fighters and holding several fundraisers. Timing for this effort was generated in part by 14 fires in Swanton between 1937 and 1939, including fires at the homes of several prominent residents and in one of the town's elevators.¹⁸

Despite the Great Depression and the continued population decline, a limited number of bungalows were constructed for local residents in the early 1930s. It is unclear if these replaced older structures or were constructed on previously undeveloped lots. By the



Figure 39: 215 Main Street (SA06-030)
(Source: APMA 2015)

¹³ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984*, 21-22.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 22.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 22.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 15.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

¹⁸ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984*, 8.

1940s, street trees were well established in the town site, obscuring the view of buildings in many photos.

The declining population in other areas strengthened at least one church in Swanton. In the 1930s, the Immanuel congregation in Jefferson County closed and some members began attending the Evangelical Church in Swanton, prompting the construction of an addition and a basement in 1945.

POST WWII (1946-1969)

As agriculture developed in the mid-century, farms became larger, and farmers began relying on the improved roads and larger trucks to get their products to market. Thus, the economy in towns like Swanton began to switch from agricultural business centers to social and educational centers. In 1948 the Zapadni Ceska Bratrska Jednota Lodge (aka the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) purchased the town hall, so that it finally had its own meeting hall.¹⁹ In 1954, an auditorium was constructed next to the school, but the nation-wide school consolidation movement at this time meant that it was only used by the school for a short time. By 1960, the call for larger classes and less administrative staff led to the suspension of high school classes in Swanton and in 1966, the school was closed. Students were consolidated into the Tri-County School system with those in Jefferson and Gage Counties. Finally, during this same time, the town added a sewer system, rounding out its utility services to local residents and businesses.

MODERN ERA (1970-2015)

The 1970s dealt several physical blows to Swanton. An unusually cold winter and plentiful spring rain caused Swan Creek to flood the town site in 1973.²⁰ That same year, the Richtarik building at the southeast corner of Second and Main was torn down. This was followed shortly by the demolition of the school and the demolition of the train depot.

There were also less tangible changes. By 1971, the town council had converted the funds for amusement into support for the gymnasium, maintaining it as a social center for the town, and had added a rural fire truck fund.

At some time during the 1970s, the idea of consolidation also caught on within the local government. The City Marshall's office was discontinued and arrangements were made with the County Sherriff. The city landfill was also closed, and an agreement was made with a private firm for weekly garbage pick-up and disposal.²¹ In 1977, power for the town was turned over to the Nebraska Public Power District. Finally, the town purchased the Sukovaty-Kuzelka building (originally the Daniel Yost



Figure 40: School Gymnasium (SA06-009)
(Source: APMA 2015)

¹⁹ Ibid., 32.

²⁰ Ibid., 16.

²¹ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984*, 18.

automobile dealership) for use by the Fire Department for truck storage, by the town for Town Board meetings, and for story hour for the local children on Wednesday nights.²²

The early 1980s saw commercial and social organizations moving to different locations around the town. In May 1981, the Post Office building was sold to Charles Lefler Jr., who renovated it for the bank expansion. The Post Office moved next door into the former barber shop.²³ Shortly after this, in 1982 the Z.C.B.J. lodge sold its building, the old City Hall. That building was moved to a new site and the Lodge began holding meetings at the Fire Department/City Hall.²⁴ That same year, the Swanton United Methodist Church completed its addition for additional meeting space and Sunday School rooms.

Although the population had shrunk to 94 by 2010, a limited number of new residential buildings have been constructed in the last couple of decades. Despite its smaller size today, Swanton continues to serve the surrounding agricultural community as a center for government and social organizations.

²² Ibid., 18.

²³ Ibid., 7.

²⁴ Ibid., 32.

TOBIAS

INTRODUCTION

Located in the southwest corner of Saline County, Tobias lies in the northwest corner of Olive Township (Township 5, Range 1), section 8. The town grid was platted on level ground in 1884 by the Lincoln Land Company. Its initial success was due to its location along the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad at a standard shipping interval between Western, in Saline County, and Ohiowa, in Fillmore County. Its' successful start was reinforced a short time later with the addition of the Kansas City and Omaha Railroad line in 1886. Today, its location along State Highway 74 helps strengthen its ability to serve as a small government services and social center.

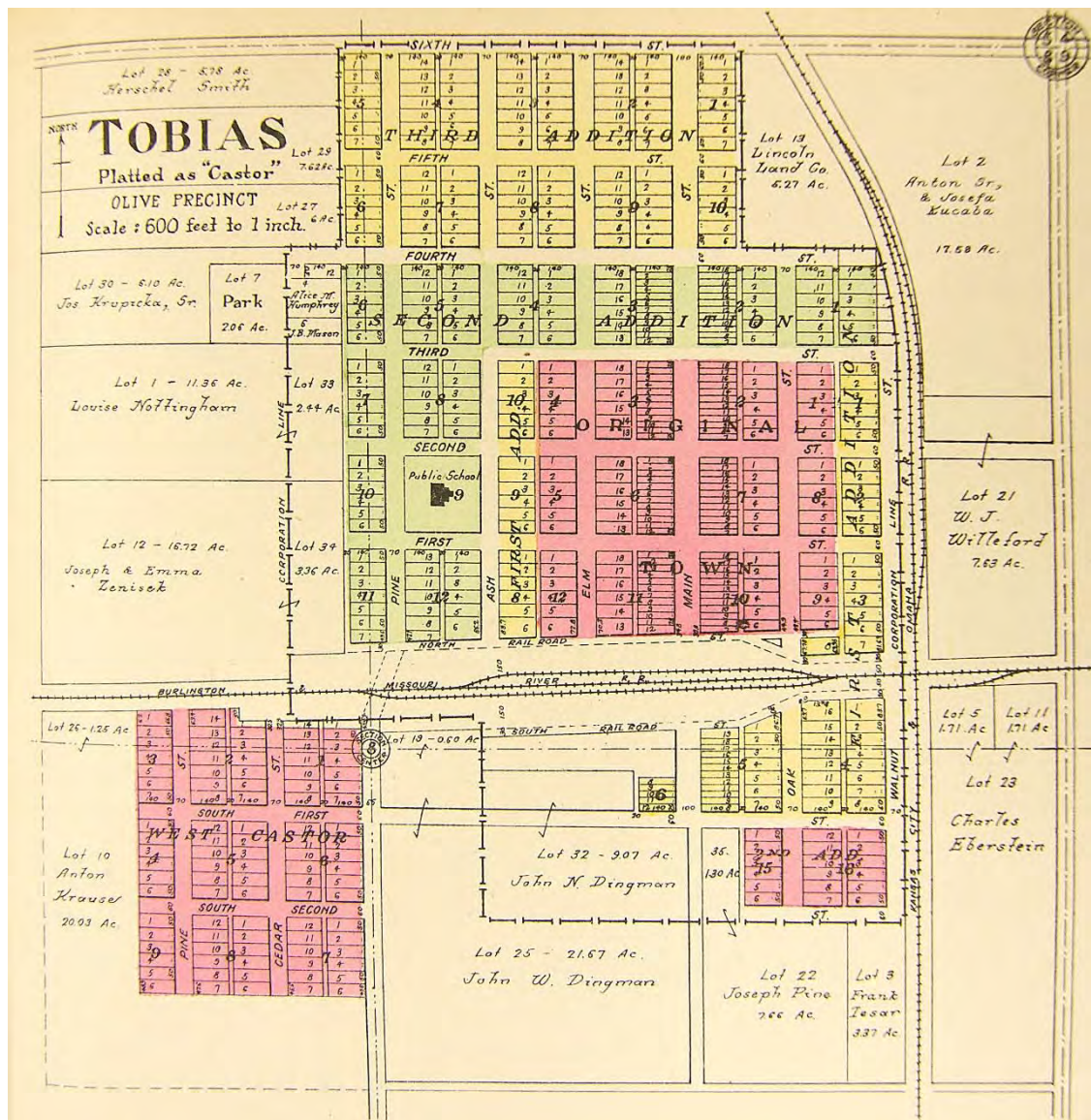


Figure 41: Tobias Plat Map

(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

SETTLEMENT AND RAPID EXPANSION (1884-1891)

In 1884, the Lincoln Land Company platted the town of Castor, orienting its business district north/south perpendicular to the tracks, and slightly east of the center of the original plat. Before this time, the nearest railroad depot was 18 miles away, a two or three day ride when herding hogs or cattle to market. The new line was proposed as a means to provide greater convenience to the coming settlers.¹

The town was originally named Castor, after Tobias Castor, a Burlington land agent and prominent early settler in the area. When Castor was rejected by the United States Postal Service because of its similarity to Custer in Custer County, Tobias was proposed and accepted as an alternative.

The town quickly sprang to life. Commercial businesses filled two blocks of Main Street on the North side of the tracks. Some were extensions of existing businesses in near-by towns, such as the hardware store run by Charles Sanders, whose father and several associates also operated hardware stores in Friend and Dorchester.² Others were new enterprises, such as Chase and Holman's general store. On the south side of the tracks, larger buildings housing industrial businesses developed, including a lumber and coal yard, and also an elevator. Research by N. Maud Hull Bever indicates that in the early years there were "six general stores, one exchange grocery, two hardware stores, two lumber yards, three book stores, two drug stores, three saloons, two elevators, two hotels, two farm implement stores, two millinery stores, two brick layers and plasterers, one flour and feed store, one boot and shoe store, the Globe Mill (flour), a branch of the Fairmont Creamery, the Lowe Cheese Factory, one jewelry store, one furniture store, two banks, two blacksmith shops, two pump and windmill shops, two coal dealers, three real estate agents, two livery stables, two barbers, one

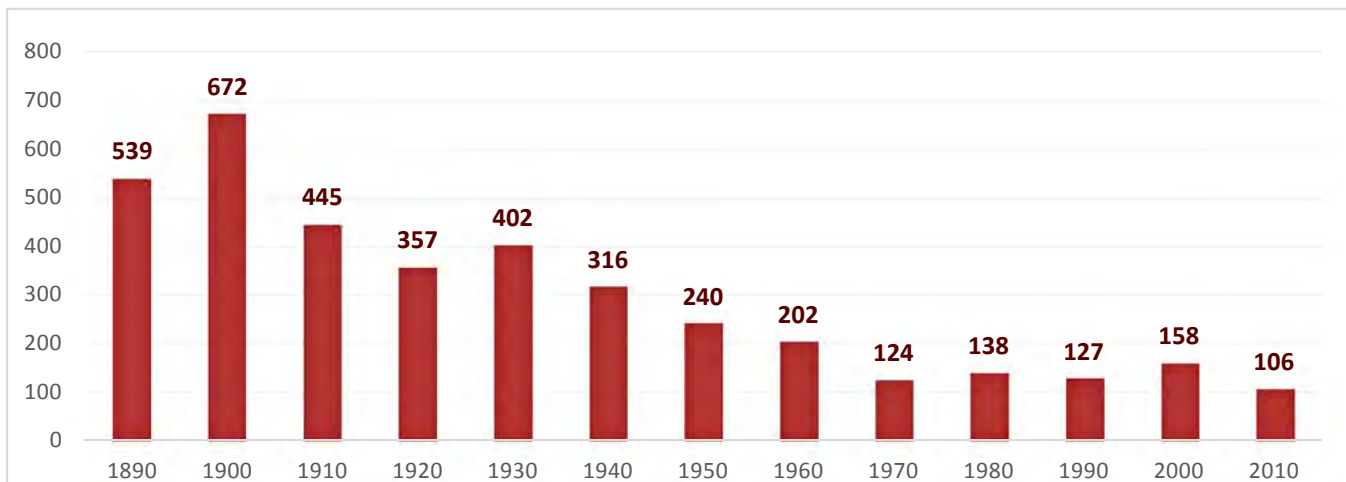


Figure 42: Population of Tobias.
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015.)

¹ Helen Kottas, "Tobias, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff. Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988. Accessed May 26, 2015.
<http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/tobias/>.

² American Legion Auxiliary, Unit No. 311, ed., *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska – 1884-1984* (Tobias, Nebraska: The Auxiliary, 1984), 7.

harness shop, one meat market, one brick yard (northwest of town on the Klein Farmstead), two confectionary stores, two wagon shops, one newspaper, one livestock dealer and one lawyer."³ She also noted that many early businesses often changed hands as people tried their luck with various enterprises and that many downtown buildings were constructed with living quarters above.⁴

In 1884, the first school house was brought into town from District 81 and set on the lot to the east of the water tower. This building was used for the younger students, while older pupils attended classes in the upper floor of the furniture store.⁵ In the spring of 1885, the Lincoln Land Company offered three lots in the west part of town. Their proposal was quickly accepted and by Thanksgiving of that year a new, four room framed school house was ready on the site to house all grades. Enrollment at the time was 75, with 60 attending daily.⁶

Methodist and Baptist churches were both organized in 1885. The Methodists built a parsonage that year and claimed a membership of 25. A year later, the Baptists completed a church building at the northeast corner of Ash and First Streets, which they offered for use to other denominations every other Sunday. Their membership at the time totaled 30.⁷

To accommodate the burgeoning number of residents and businesses, additional land was platted by the Lincoln Land Company in May of 1885. After the addition of the north/south line of the Kansas City and Omaha Railroad in 1886, three more additions were platted between 1887 and 1892.⁸ By 1890, the population had reached 539.⁹ Most early settlers were of German, Irish, Czech and English heritage. To house the new residents, a mixture of folk Victorian, I cottages and "L" shaped cottages spread out among the residential lots.

CHANGE (1891-1913)

On April 8, 1891, an arsonist set a devastating fire which decimated the downtown. Fighting it by bucket brigade with water pumped from near-by wells was a difficult process.¹⁰ While the bank and the depot were saved, by the time the fire was put out, it had destroyed 22 other buildings along both sides of Main Street, dramatically changing the downtown. Many business owners lost everything, but some were able to rebuild. The companies that were able to reestablish themselves constructed new buildings of brick. One of these was the Commercial Hotel, owned by George White and constructed at the corner of Second and Main Streets.¹¹



Figure 43: The west side of Main Street in 1891, just before the fire.
(Source: University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Virtual Nebraska, "Tobias".)

³ American Legion Auxiliary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 6.

⁴ Ibid., 8.

⁵ Ibid., 11.

⁶ Ibid., 8.

⁷ Ibid., 8.

⁸ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 84.

⁹ 1890 U.S. Census, Saline County, Nebraska.

¹⁰ American Legion Auxiliary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 7.

¹¹ Ibid., 21.

Tobias reached its peak population of 672 residents in 1900. During the next decade, the town continued to develop, although more slowly. Additional homes were constructed, in common and bungalow forms.

City services developed during the first decade of the 1900s included water service and the fire department in 1905 and the telephone system in 1901. Court Nunemaker founded the Saline Telephone Company in 1901. With offices above the bank, it served Tobias, Friend and Wilber. There were already 41 telephone subscribers in 1903. After nearly a decade of service, the telephone company was sold to the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The growing population meant a full school house. By 1903, school enrollment had reached 187 and in 1908, the school house was overflowing, so a second, two room frame school house was built to the southwest of the larger building.¹² This however, was only a temporary measure, and in 1914, a masonry, two-story school house was constructed in the center of the school grounds.

The older residents were very active and formed many local organizations. The Western Bohemian Fraternal Association was organized in January of 1900 and met in a variety of locations until they constructed their own lodge in 1905. Other town histories note that by 1904, the list of local organizations included the MWA, Knights of Pythias, the Royal Highlanders, A.O.U., the International Order of Odd Fellows, the D. of H, the GAR, and the WRC. Both the Masons and the I.O.O.F. had constructed halls in town, which they rented out for use by many of these groups.¹³

Religious organizations were also growing during this period. In 1907, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was organized. They quickly began construction and a building was dedicated a year later. This was followed in the spring of 1913 by the Catholic's efforts. That year the Catholics purchased property at the north edge of town and formed a building committee. Because all three men on the committee were named Joseph, Father Mosler suggested they name the church St. Joseph. Carpenters John Sakryt and John Anderson constructed the building, which was dedicated in November, 1913.¹⁴

As with the 1890s, this era too saw buildings disappear from Tobias's landscape. On May 22, 1907, the Globe Mill burned down and was never rebuilt. This was followed around 1914, by the demolition of the Commercial Hotel.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE AUTOMOBILE (1914-1929)

As Nebraska's road system developed, the economy of Tobias shifted from agricultural services and support to that of a local government and social center. As State Highway 74 developed, it was routed along the north side of Tobias, opposite the railroad and the main commercial strip in the town. The direct effect of the automobile on the town could be seen in the erection of a service station on the northeast edge of town by Robert Hogue in 1921 and in the decision not to replace one of the two liverys in town when it burned in 1922.¹⁵

¹² American Legion Auxiliary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 11.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 10.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 14.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 8.



Figure 44: South of 1st Street on Main Street. (SA07-035)
(Source: APMA 2015.)

Likewise, entertainment, social and religious organizations took several steps forward in the 1920s. In the early years of the decade, the Methodists and Baptists joined to form the Community Church. By 1925, the first movie theater, Liberty Theater, found a permanent home. Two years later, the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association built a dance pavilion north of its

existing building. The pavilion was used for a wide range of activities. In addition to dances, basketball, roller-skating and school plays were just a few of the activities that took place there.¹⁶ This was complemented in 1928 when a Sunday school class was inspired to start a town library in the basement of the Community Church. The girls served as librarians and the boys built shelves.¹⁷

THE MID-CENTURY (1930-1969)

The mid-century in Tobias was marked by minor growth and change. Still tied strongly to the surrounding agricultural economy, the Great Depression hit Tobias hard. It lost many businesses, including both banks.¹⁸ Liberty Theater held out, but eventually closed in 1941.

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, several local fraternal organizations were moving around town. A local chapter of the American Legion was formed in 1947, and moved into a permanent location on Main Street in 1955. Around the same time, the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association was downsizing. In 1954, it sold its pavilion to the local school district and tore its building down. The lodge then purchased an office building and remodeled it for its purposes.¹⁹

Similarly, automobile related businesses were notably changing. In 1949 Louis Endorf purchased the service station in the northeast edge of town. He constructed additions in 1949 and 1959 to service cars and sell automotive parts and supplies. Additionally, by 1963, the Kirby Garage at the southeast corner of Main Street was owned by the town. That year it was purchased by Francis Brakhage for use as a Feed and Grinding Service.²⁰ The building was destroyed by fire in 1971.²¹ When the business was reestablished a year later, it moved to the east edge of Tobias.

¹⁶ American Legion Auxiliary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 16.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

¹⁸ Kottas, "Tobias, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

¹⁹ American Legion Auxiliary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 16.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 17.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 27.

A natural disaster in the 1950s, led to the removal of one of the town's churches. In the 1950s, membership at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tobias was dwindling. When a tornado hit Hebron, Nebraska May 9, 1953 and left a large swath of destruction through that town and the adjoining countryside, Bishop Howard Brinker considered the large number of children in Sunday school there and decided to move the Tobias Church to Hebron.²²

Limited residential construction occurred during this period. A handful of ranch homes were built. More notably, in the last step to complete its local utilities, the town installed a sewer system in 1969.

As this era comes to a close, the most notable change was in the local educational system. By the late 1960s, like many others across the state the school district felt the pressure to consolidate to reduce administrative costs. In 1967, the Tobias schools were consolidated with the Daykin and Alexandria School Districts. A new brick building was built in 1977, in the country seven miles south of town on State Highway 4.

MODERN ERA (1970-2015)

In 1976, a serious ice and snow storm hit southeast Nebraska. The evening of March 29, the rain began to switch to ice and snow, building up on the power lines. Then the wind reached gusts of 50 and 60 MPH, causing lines to sway and then crash into each other and eventually down to the ground. Within a short time, thousands of people in a 16 county area were without electricity. The wet snow reached an accumulation of 5 to 7 inches. Electricity was restored in Tobias within four days, although more remote farms were without power for a month.²³

The population of Tobias has been hovering around 130 since 1970. When a Tobias history was completed in the 1980s, the town boasted that at this time it had, "a grocery store, two garages, two beauty shops, a cafe and bar, a lumberyard, an elevator, a post office, a library, (and) a museum. A feed store is located on the edge of town." Additional details on utility and business developments in the early 1980s can be found in the Centennial book published in 1984. In 1981, a new well was drilled for the town 5 miles South of Tobias. That same year, Bartels Lumber and Construction opened in a new metal building on the south side of town. A year later, the business was expanded to include Gooch Feeds. In April 1982, the town's grocery store was consumed by fire and was not rebuilt. To replace its function, the citizens formed a local co-op and opened it in the building next to the post office in 1983.

Today the town continues to serve as a local center for government services and social organizations.



Figure 45: North of 3rd Street on Main.
(SA07-045)
(Source: APMA 2015.)

²² American Legion Auxiliary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 13.

²³Ibid., 33.

WESTERN

INTRODUCTION

Western is located in southwestern Saline County in the center of South Fork Township, on portions of sections 15, 16, 21 and 22. Located on fertile land, the village is situated between a small tributary of the Middle Fork of Swan Creek on the west, Spring Creek on the north and a small tributary of Swan Creek on the east. The village is currently located one mile west of Nebraska Highway 15 on Spur 76C and 2 miles south of Nebraska Highway 74 on Saline County Road 1000.

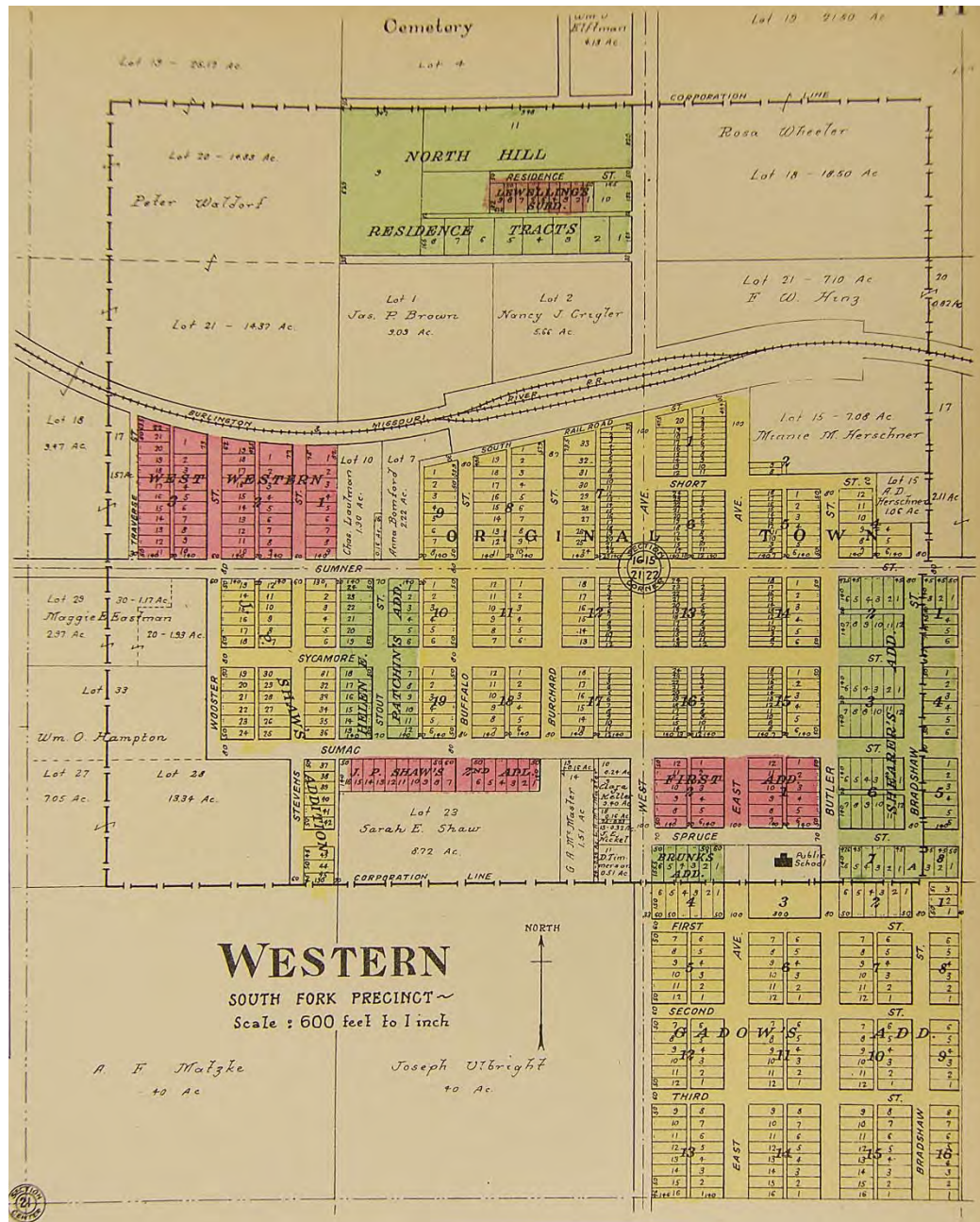


Figure 46: Western Plat Map

(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

SETTLEMENT AND EXPANSION (1860-1890)

The first settlers to the area established homesteads along Swan Creek a few miles east of present day Western in the early 1860s. Many early settlers were of German ancestry and many came from Wisconsin in covered wagons.¹ In 1870 a post office, originally named Equality, was established on land owned by homesteader Wesley West, who served as the first postmaster.² Two years later, Dr. L.E. Goodell platted the village of Western. The original town plat included 16 blocks and 3 half blocks. Commercial lots were located along West and East Avenues between South Railroad Street on the north and Sumac Street on the south. At the time, the community consisted of 39 people, a schoolhouse, post office, blacksmith shop and a few homes, most constructed of sod. The first store was constructed by George Hunt two blocks east of the town center.³

In 1880 the village was incorporated and four years later it became a stop between DeWitt and Tobias on the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad when the railroad line opened for business on May 1, 1884. The railroad located its tracks on the north end of town perpendicular to West and East Avenues. By 1885 the tracks were also being used by the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad and a train depot had been constructed. The presence of the railroad dramatically increased settlement in the community and four additions to the village's corporate limits were platted. Two years later the two-story, brick masonry, commercial Italianate style Saline County Bank building (SA08-069) was erected by William Bench on the northeast corner of West Avenue and Sumner Street. The population in the growing community reached 397 people by 1890.

CONTINUED GROWTH (1890-1930)

During the first three decades of the twentieth century, the population of Western grew to its peak of 511 people in 1930. Many of the commercial masonry buildings in the business district were

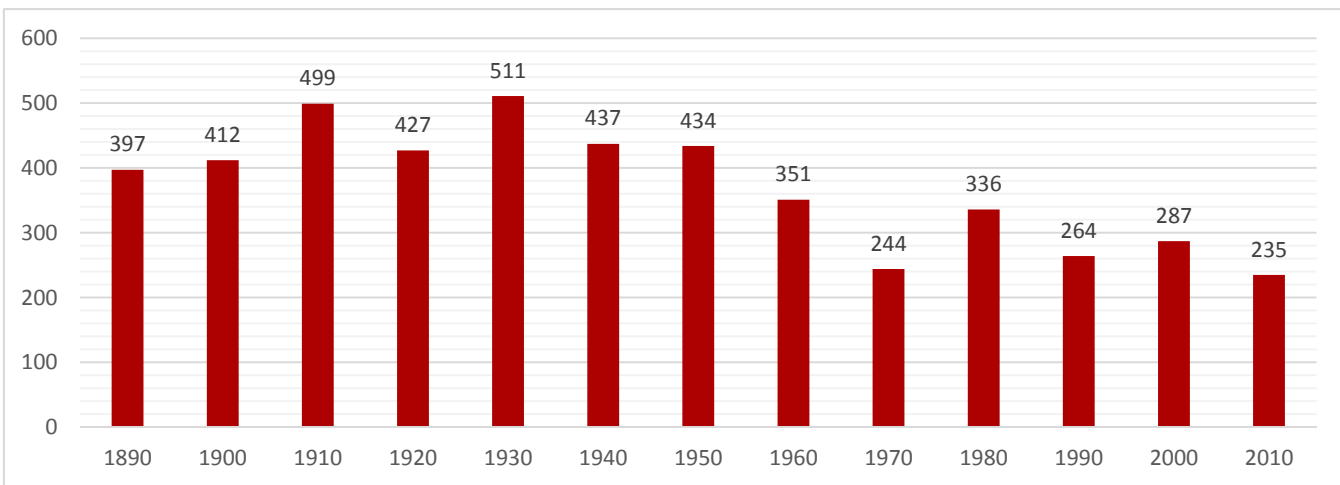


Figure 47: Population of Western.
(Source: Decennial Censuses; Graph by APMA 2015.)

¹ Laurene Gillespie, "Western, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*, edited by Jane Graff. Seward, NE: Second Century Publications, 1988. Accessed May 26, 2015. <http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/saline/western/>.

² Janet Jeffries and Wilma Daddario, *Prairie Country: Heritage Tourism Survey* (Crete, Nebraska: Self-published, 1997), 309.

³ Gillespie, "Western, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

constructed during this time, including the two-story P. Waldorf building at 103 South West Avenue built in 1900. In 1913 the current school was constructed, the sixth building used for education in the community at that time.

It was during this time that a number of homes were constructed throughout the village. Many of these homes retain a fairly high degree of integrity and include a mixture of folk Victorian, gable front, and craftsmen style homes.

The growing popularity of the automobile during this time is evident in Western with the construction of the gas station at the southeast corner of West Avenue and Sycamore Streets in 1910. A 1918 Saline County Atlas indicates that West Avenue was a Federal Aid Road which extended south to Jefferson County. This road traversed north and then east along present day Nebraska State Highway 41 to Wilber. In addition, a county road from DeWitt entered the east side of the village along Sumner Street. In later years another gas station was constructed on the north end of West Avenue between South Railroad and Short Streets.



Figure 48: Southwest corner of West and Sumner (SA08-067)
(Source APMA 2015)

THE MID-CENTURY AND MODERN ERA (1930-PRESENT)

As with many small communities throughout Nebraska, the hardships of the 1930s depression era, the decline of the railroad, the continued ease of automobile use greatly impacted further population growth in Western. By 1970 the population had dropped to 244. Despite the declining population, in 1950 the people of Western continued to dedicate and support their community by erecting a school auditorium building east of the 1913 school building. Despite this dedication, declining population forced closure of the high school in 1968. The elementary school continued to serve the community for the next 39 years. Since then most students attend either Tri-County schools to the east outside of DeWitt, Nebraska or Meridian Public School to the southwest outside of Daykin, Nebraska.

The prosperity in agriculture during the 1970s may have contributed to a rise in Western's population by the 1980 census which increased by almost 100 to 336 people. Today the community boasts a population of 235 people. Local histories state that current residents are predominantly of German or Czech ancestry. Many are retired, self-employed or commute to jobs in nearby towns. During the summer, the village continues to host the Old Settler's Picnic, an annual event first held in 1897.



Figure 49: Northwest corner of Sumner and Butler (SA08-032)
(Source APMA 2015)

WILBER

INTRODUCTION

Wilber is directly south of Crete in Saline County, Nebraska. It is centered in Wilber Township (Range 6, Section 4) Sections 15 and 22, on the eastern edge of the county. The street grid is overlaid onto gently rolling hills that line the Big Blue River. This location meant that the town saw minor overland immigration as some early settlers used the Big Blue River as a cut-off between Maryville, Kansas and the Great Central Route of the Overland trail along the Platte River. Platted in 1873, after the construction of a north-south line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad connecting Crete and Beatrice, the town became a rail cross roads in 1884 with the addition of a line west to Tobias and beyond. Wilber's future was secured in 1878 when it won the county seat. In the 1960s, renewed interest in local residents' Czech heritage resulted in the establishment of the Wilber Czech Festival. In 1987, the United States government recognized Wilber as the "Czech Capital of the USA." Today, the town continues to prosper as a center for local government and heritage tourism.

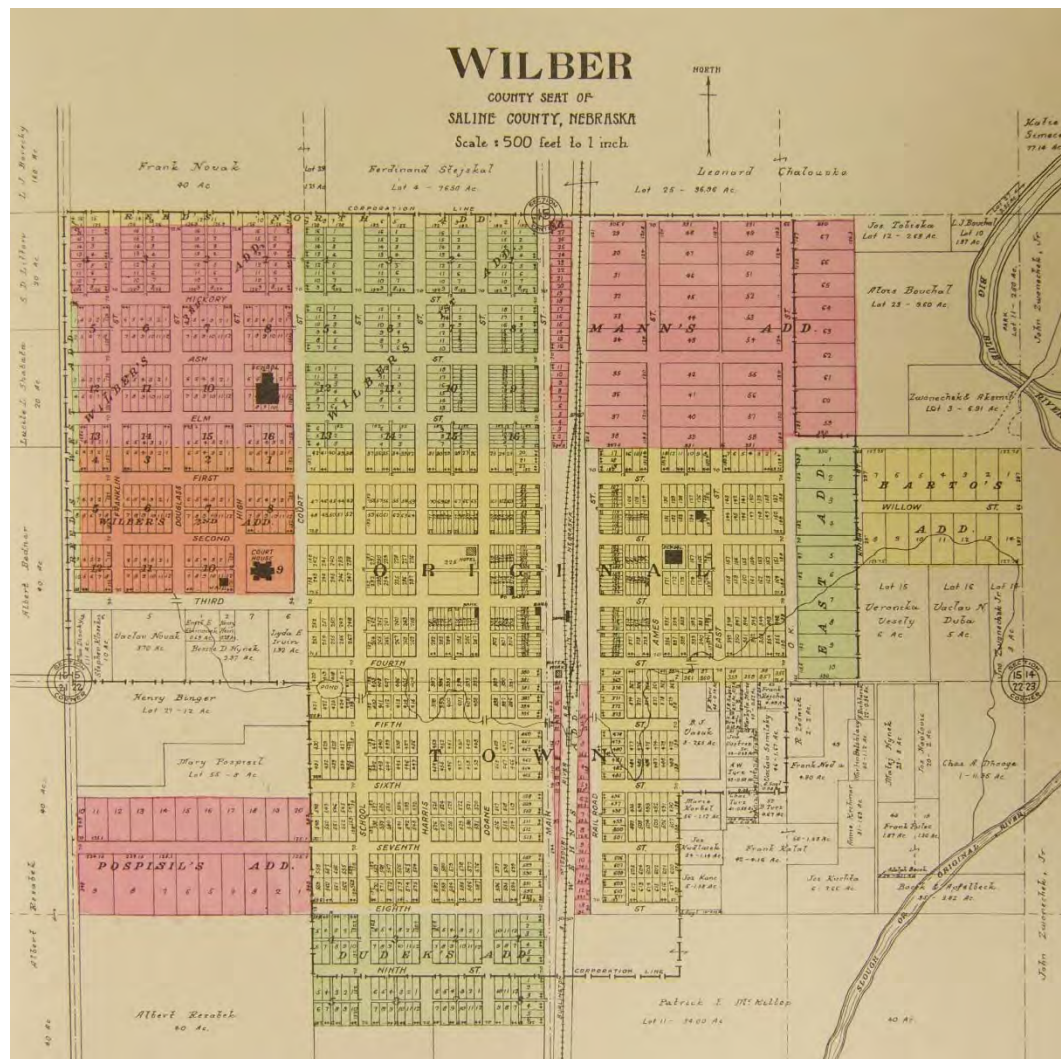


Figure 50: Wilber Plat Map

(Source: *Saline County Atlas*, Mason City, Iowa: Anderson Publishing Co., 1918.)

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY GROWTH (1862-1900)

The town site of Wilber was originally owned by Charles D. Wilber, an advance man for the Burlington Railroad, and Jacob Mooney. The two men struck a deal in which they gave land to the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in return for securing a town site at this location. Construction of the tracks and depot was begun in 1871 and by 1872 the line was operational, connecting Beatrice in neighboring Gage County to Crete.¹ The town was officially platted a year later with commercial lots lining the railroad track and perpendicular to it, leading away from the tracks in the center of town.²

Lots began filling over the next several years. Charles D. Wilber constructed both his own home and the first hotel, Hotel Wilber, in 1873.³ Other early businesses soon followed and included three general stores (one of which doubled as a grain exchange), a wagon shop, a cabinet maker, a drug store, an elevator and the Wilber Mill.⁴ Built by William H. Mann and Charles Harvey, the mill was one of the town's largest industries for several decades.⁵ Also in 1873, the Congregational Church constructed its worship facility.

While the early businessmen listed in Andreas's *History of the State of Nebraska* were generally Americans moving further west, Czechs were also already present in the area. In 1874, they formed a Czech Cemetery Association. Additionally, an early Bohemian newspaper, *Besada*, was published by Joseph Novinsky in 1877, although it only survived a few months.⁶

1878 was an auspicious year for Wilber. In 1877, the location of the county seat came under scrutiny again. That year, several elections were held to decide if it would remain in Pleasant Hill or be moved.

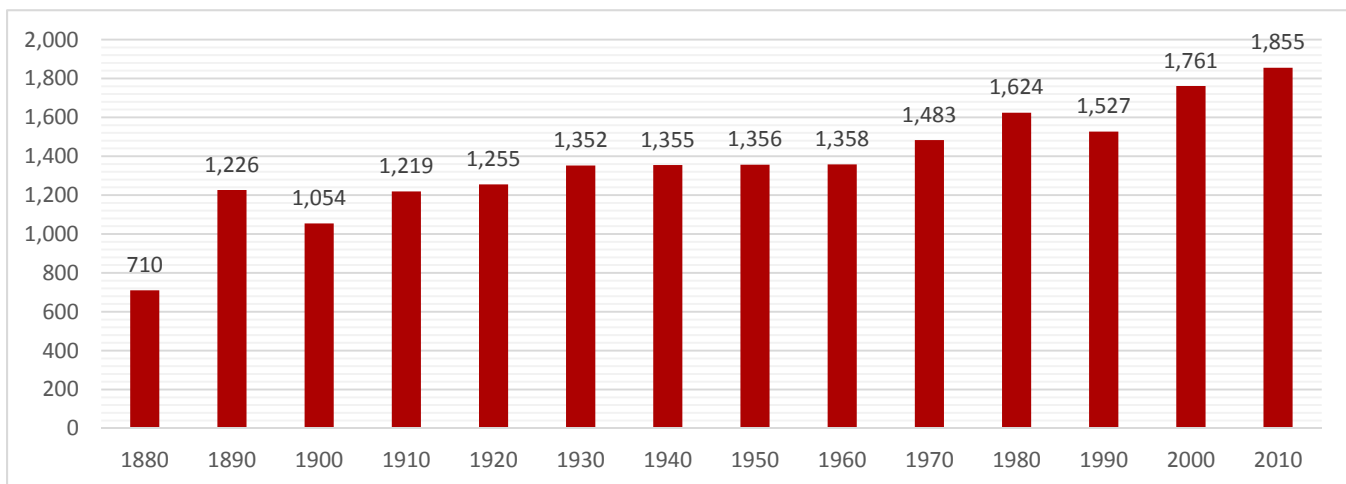


Figure 51: Population of Wilber.
(Source: Decennial Censes; Graph by APMA 2015.)

¹ Irma Anna Freeouf Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story: 100 Years in Verse" (Wilber, Nebraska: 1973), p.3.

² *The Official State Atlas of Nebraska*, "Saline County" (Philadelphia: Everts and Kirk, 1885).

³ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Wilber."

⁴ Ibid.; Kral, "Wilber, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁵ National Register of Historic Places, William H. Mann House, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 19781229.

⁶ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Wilber."

In the final election, Wilber won by 230 votes. Although the outcome was disputed, Judge Weaver upheld the election results in January 1878 and the county seat was moved.⁷ W.S. Van Austin built the new County Courthouse for \$14,000. As the seat of local government, the town now had a second impetus for growth in addition to the successful mill. The population increase from courthouse employees and increasing numbers of settlers led to the town's incorporation April 25, 1879.

These years saw the construction of a new school building and the formation of three churches. Completed in 1879, the three-story brick school house accommodated 300 children and included five classrooms and a large assembly hall.⁸ The Methodist Episcopal Church completed their building at 223 West 4th Street in 1878. That same year, the Latter Day Saints organized and began meeting in the court room. A year later, the Baptist Church was formed and started meeting in the Methodist Church.⁹ That building hosted speaker Susan B. Anthony on October 3, 1882.¹⁰ By 1899, each church had been able to construct its own building.¹¹

In 1884, the town's success was reinforced by the addition of a line of the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad intended to encourage settlement in the western portion of Saline County. The railroad connected Wilber to Tobias and other rural towns beyond Saline's borders, transporting hogs, cattle and other farm commodities to market.

Overall, Wilber's population boomed from inception to 1890, reaching 1,226 that year. Of the early residential buildings, the William H. Mann House is one of the most imposing dating from the 1880s. Smaller houses extant from the era reflect common house building traditions, including Gable L homes, folk Victorian, I homes with rear extensions and a few pyramidal cottages. The large number of buildings brought with it the first of the town's utilities. In 1894, the Water Works were constructed.

Prior to 1900, social groups were abundant in Wilber. These included the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Grand Army of the Republic, the Knights of Honor, and Lodge Svojan of the C.S.P.S. All of these groups met in the Masonic Hall and were dealt a heavy hand when it was destroyed by fire in 1884.¹²

In March 1895, another fire in the downtown left Wilber without a hotel and led to the construction of the current



Figure 52: William H Mann House (SA09-011)
(Source: APMA 2015)

⁷ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 152-154; Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 7-8.

⁸ Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Wilber."

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Elmer A. Kral, "A Selected History of Wilber and Czech Culture in Nebraska, 1873-1997," (1997), p. 86.

¹¹ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Wilber," 1899.

¹² Andreas, *History of the State of Nebraska*, "Saline County," "Wilber."



Figure 53: 3rd Street between Main and School (SA09-059)
(Source: APMA 2015)

Hotel Wilber. When completed, the dining room could accommodate 50 people and the second floor contained 20 separate rooms.¹³

STABILIZATION (1900-1912)

From a population of 1,219 in 1900 the number of local residents grew slowly until 1930, when it reached 1,352.¹⁴ During this period, a large percentage were still primarily of Czech descent and Bohemian was still spoken in Wilber. Many enjoyed going to a park just south of the town that was the center of social activity at this time. Dances and Sokol tournaments were held here, in addition to baseball games and picnics.¹⁵ The growing population also necessitated an addition to the

school in 1903.¹⁶ Two stories tall, the masonry addition attached to the center of the rear facade.¹⁷

Wilber added services and utilities just after the turn of the century to enhance the residents' lives and continue to attract business. In 1903 telephone service was installed.¹⁸ This was followed by street lights and electrical service by 1909.¹⁹

Business in Wilber at the turn of the last century included six general stores, two hardware stores, two lumber yards, three implement dealerships, two drug stores, three confectionary stores, three millinery stores, two furniture stores, two banks, one abstract office, three livery barns, two harness shops, one butter and egg house, one photo gallery and six saloons.²⁰ Sanborn maps illustrate a thriving downtown two blocks long perpendicular to the railroad tracks. Most buildings were one-story tall and filled only the front half of the lot. Exceptions included the banks, opera hall and larger gentlemen's stores, which were two-stories tall and filled their lots at least two-thirds deep. Many buildings had a small space between them, hinting at frame construction yet in place. A second, larger opera house was located on the far side of the tracks, and the commercial strip was surrounded by a loose collection of light industry, including several livery shops and blacksmith shops.

With the surrounding agricultural economy, the mill and elevators continued to be significant businesses. The Farmer's Elevator was organized in 1904 and opened in 1905 in the former Hopkins Elevator.²¹ That same year, the mill burned down and was rebuilt.²²

Another important local business was the brewing company. Founded in 1901, the Wilber Brewing Company moved in 1910 and began manufacturing beer at a new facility three-quarters of a mile

¹³ National Register of Historic Places, Hotel Wilber, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 78001709.

¹⁴ Decennial Census, U.S. Census, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska.

¹⁵ Kral, "Wilber, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

¹⁶ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 12.

¹⁷ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Wilber," 1909.

¹⁸ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 11.

¹⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Wilber," 1909.

²⁰ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 10.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 12.

²² *Ibid.*, 10.

west of the courthouse on the south side of the highway.²³ During Prohibition, the product became “near beer”; however, this was short lived. In June 1918, lightning struck the building, starting a fire that destroyed the building and the company never rebuilt.²⁴

CHANGE (1913-1929)

As roads developed, Wilber was in a perfect position for continued growth. New roads mimicked the path of the existing railroads, crossing in Wilber. The built environment began to reflect the changing modes of transportation, adding the first automobile repair shop in 1913. The business was owned by Vaclav Kohout.²⁵ The 1923 Sanborn map also illustrates the changeover from liverys to automobile garages within Wilber’s commercial area, and the addition of garages for personal vehicles in the residential areas.

Single family homes began to change as well. By 1923, the residential lots were filling in throughout the town. Many homes were on double lots.²⁶ A delightful selection of bungalows is extant from this period throughout Wilber.

Social groups made their own impact during this era. In 1913, the Masons built a new lodge just south of the center of Wilber’s main commercial strip. Just over a decade later, the Wilber Sokal Hall was constructed next door.

In 1925, the Sokol movement in Wilber was revived. The group built an open air platform and generated income from dances. Combined with donations, they were able to enclose the pavilion in 1926. Just four years later the group was already enlarging and improving the original building. In addition to gymnastics and Czech language classes, the building was home to a drama club, Czech Circle club, a choir and weekly dances.²⁷



Figure 54: 416 North School (SA09-089)
(Source: APMA 2015)

Business expansion during this period was relatively quiet in Wilber, with minor new construction and limited movement illustrated in a comparison to the 1909 and 1923 Sanborn Maps. The exception to this was the mill. Zwonechek and Aksamit built a new dam and power house in 1918 to support their growing milling operation.²⁸ By 1923, the company owned two buildings along the railroad tracks just north of Third Street. Their mill had a capacity of 60 barrels a day, and the elevator could store 12,000 bushels.²⁹

The most significant impact on Wilber at this time came from the revival of the discussion of the location of the County Seat. Late in the second decade of the twentieth

²³ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, “Wilber,” 1909.

²⁴ Ourecky, “The Wilber Centennial Story,” 12.

²⁵ Ibid., 12.

²⁶ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, “Wilber,” 1923.

²⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Sokol Pavilion, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 98000892.

²⁸ Ourecky, “The Wilber Centennial Story,” 13.

²⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, “Wilber,” 1923.

century, the State Fire Marshall condemned the existing County Court House as unsafe. In 1920, an election was held to decide if it would stay in Wilber, or be relocated to Crete. With the location re-secured, so was Wilber's continued success. A second election was held to pass a bond issue to fund a new courthouse. Finally, on June 12, 1929 the stately new Classical Revival style County Courthouse was dedicated.³⁰

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WWII (1930-1945)

By the 1930s, the town's businesses included two grain elevators, flour mills, a brewery, a sawmill, a stockyard, various meat markets, a hatchery and a variety of stores selling shoes, clothes, and groceries as well as offices for professional services. Additionally, by this time, several of the smallest homes in town were replaced by modest, new homes, and a limited number of empty lots were infilled.³¹ However, the slowing agricultural economy in the late 1920s and the Great Depression limited development in Wilber during this time.

Notable exceptions to this general malaise included the town's utilities, the American Legion and the school. In 1930 the town began providing gas service.³² That same year, the American Legion constructed a new building of their own on the west side of Main Street, just south of the downtown.³³ Finally, a slow economy did not stop the school from growing. In 1931, a new high school building was completed just east of the existing school, closing off Court Street between Ash and Elm.³⁴ Two stories tall, the masonry structure held six classrooms and a large auditorium with a balcony.³⁵

During the Great Depression the federal government created the Work Projects Administration (WPA) to provide jobs for millions of people. The lasting results of this can still be seen in a wide variety of buildings and structures, including park buildings, bridges, swimming pools, schools, post-offices, parks, museums, auditoriums and gyms. Wilber was one of many locations to secure funding from the program. With a small matching grant, in 1937 the city and the WPA constructed a municipal swimming pool on empty lots.³⁶

During WWII, the citizens of Wilber did their part for the war efforts. They raised money for the Red Cross, hosted soldiers from the air base, raised money for two fire trucks, and donated typewriters from the school to the government.³⁷ When the war was over, in 1944, the Crete Mills Elevator in Wilber closed after 52 years of operation, leaving the Farmer's Elevator as the sole elevator in town.

There were two significant changes to transportation in the mid-1940s. The first, in 1944, was the formation of the airport commission.³⁸ A municipal airport was established one mile to the west of town, across State Highway 41 from the Cecho Slovansky Cemetery. The second change was the realignment of State Highway 41 to the east of town. On September 24, 1945, the bridge northeast of Wilber over the Big Blue River collapsed under the weight of a passing truck. Fortunately, the

³⁰ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 152-154.

³¹ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Wilber," 1932.

³² Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 15.

³³ *Ibid.*, 15.

³⁴ Kral, "Wilber, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

³⁵ Sanborn Map Company, *Saline County, Nebraska*, "Wilber," 1923.

³⁶ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 15.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 17.

³⁸ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 18.

driver was unhurt. The Nebraska Department of Roads decided to rebuild the bridge at a new location, the east end of Third Street, creating a direct connection into Wilber's commercial area.³⁹

POST WWII (1946-1969)

After World War II, Wilber's population remained stable and residents focused on civic and social improvements. In 1946, an elevated water tank was constructed for the town. This was followed in 1949 with improvements to street lighting.⁴⁰ In 1946, the American Legion purchased the park area at the south end of town and began renovating the facilities. The area is now known as Legion Memorial Park. The Sokol Hall was also in need of improvements and in 1947, they updated the building's heating system, improved the kitchen and enlarged the dance floor.⁴¹



Figure 55: Sokol Pavilion (SA09-065)
(Source: APMA 2015)

A limited number of storefront modernizations and new commercial buildings from this period indicate that local commerce remained stable during this period. In the late 1950s factories were constructed for the production of sausage as well as the manufacture of aluminum combination windows.⁴² Most noticeable were the new facilities for the local elevator. In 1948, the Elevator Board built a new elevator to handle the increased loads of grain the local farmers were bringing to market.⁴³

Although the railroads were both still present, the rise of the automobile meant that passenger service had declined significantly. In 1950, railroad service for passengers was curtailed to two daily trips.⁴⁴

MODERN ERA (1960-2015)

Beginning in the 1960s, Wilber's population began slowly rising. Between 1960 and 2010, the population rose from 1,358 to 1,855.⁴⁵ This can be attributed in part to several retirement housing facilities. The first, the Wilber Nursing Home, opened in 1967 on Main Street just outside of town.⁴⁶ It was so successful that an addition was constructed in 1972. At an unknown time it changed its name to the Wilber Care Center. The second retirement center to be constructed was Czech Village. Completed in 1968 on the southeast corner of

³⁹ Ibid., 18.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 19.

⁴¹ National Register of Historic Places, Sokol Pavilion, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 98000892.

⁴² Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 20; Kral, "Wilber, Saline County," in *Nebraska: Our Towns, Central Southeast*.

⁴³ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 19.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 19.

⁴⁵ Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska.

⁴⁶ Ourecky, "The Wilber Centennial Story," 23.

Third and Shimerda Streets, the development included 30 housing units. Senator Robert Kennedy spoke and Astronaut John J. Glenn and Glenn's wife attended the dedication on May 12.⁴⁷

While Wilber grew, so too did the size of the surrounding farms, requiring fewer farmers. Thus, in 1965 the Wilber schools merged with several rural schools and were renamed Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools. In 1968, a school bond was passed to construct a new facility on a 40-acre site at the southwest corner of town. Two years later the building was complete.⁴⁸

Around this same time, Wilber was beginning to develop a reputation as a tourist destination. In 1962, the town held its inaugural Czech Festival on the first weekend in August. The celebration included a parade, band concerts, a street dance and ethnic food. It was an instant success. A Czech Museum was also organized. The following year, Wilber was named "Czech Capital of Nebraska" by Governor Frank Morrison. By the late 1960s, the Wilber Czech Festival was well established and on November 10, 1968, the Dvoracek Memorial Library was dedicated. The library was funded by a federal grant and donations by Mr. and Mrs. Milo Stastny.⁴⁹ In 1987, US senators sponsored a bill proclaiming Wilber "Czech Capital of the USA."

The growing housing and tourist markets in the 1960s led to additional commercial and civic development. During the 1960s, the Big Blue Supermarket, the town's first laundromat and Wilber Manufacturing Company all opened. Additionally, buildings for a new post office and a new funeral home were completed. The city widened the streets, removing bricks pavers and replacing them with paving, in addition to installing street lights. Finally, several groups banded together to buy bleachers for the Legion Park from the Gage County Fair Board.⁵⁰

By the early 1980s, the railroad line west to Swanton, Western and Tobias was no longer economically viable. In 1984 it was removed. Signs of it still exist along the southern side of the County in the wind breaks and property lines.

In 2004 the city pool constructed by the WPA was replaced with a new zero entry pool. The pool includes 2 water slides, several geysers, a water umbrella and log crossing. A new bath house was built "to replicate the original bath house."⁵¹ Today Wilber continues to grow, serving as the county seat, a center for local commerce and building on its reputation as a tourist destination.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 24-26

⁴⁸ Ibid., 24-25.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 24.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 20, 22-23.

⁵¹ Wilber Chamber of Commerce, "Parks and Rec," last modified 2015, <http://www.wilberchamberofcommerce.com/parks-and-rec/>.

CHAPTER 2: CZECHS IN SALINE COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

Saline County was one of the first areas west of Douglas County to attract large numbers of Czech settlers. As with other early immigrant groups, word of mouth, newspaper advertisements, and railroad pamphlets distributed in the United States and Europe attracted Czech settlers, as did the promise of good, affordable agricultural land. By 1904, the county boasted 1,300 families of Czech origin.¹ The Czech men and women who moved to Saline made their mark on the county as political figures, businessmen, farmers, journalists, and in a myriad of other ways. They celebrated their cultural heritage and their personal belief systems through the formation of cultural and fraternal associations and religious groups. And they made a tangible mark on the county through the construction of homes, farmsteads, churches and social halls.

During the county's formative years, Saline's Czech population suffered from the same hardships that afflicted many early pioneers, ranging from droughts to grasshopper infestations to blizzards to economic crises. Through these trials, they persevered and many even prospered, becoming leading citizens who influenced business and politics at a local, regional and sometimes even national level. Today, Czech influence continues to permeate Saline County, both in terms of extant built resources and the strong sense of culture. This chapter provides a brief overview of Czech immigration to the United States and Nebraska before moving on to a more in-depth examination of Czech settlement in Saline County, with a particular focus on the common patterns and themes associated with the culture and architecture of the county's Czech residents.

BACKGROUND

Ethnic Czechs hail from the Eastern European Czech (or Bohemian) crownlands of Bohemia, Moravia, and Austrian Silesia.² Once an independent kingdom, Bohemia came under Hapsburg rule in 1526 and thereafter suffered cultural and religious repression until the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I.³ Beginning in the 17th century, some of their citizens came to America seeking political, religious, or economic freedom, or some combination of these three. A few decades into the nineteenth century, large numbers of Czech immigrants began arriving directly from their Bohemian homeland and subsequently moving further inland from the coast.

Droughts and oppression at home, coupled with tales of gold in California and free land in newly surveyed portions of the growing United States, accelerated Czech immigration to America after 1840.⁴ Czech-language advertisements in foreign newspapers and pamphlets distributed to Czechs in Europe celebrated the cheapness of land and the religious and economic freedom of America, thereby drawing even more immigrants.⁵ According to Joseph Opatrny, these early emigrants

¹ Dr. John A. Habenicht in Rose Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, Czech Historical Society of Nebraska (Omaha, NE: National Printing Company, 1929), 19-31.

² Josef Opatrny, "Problems in the History of Czech Immigration to America in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century," *Nebraska History* 74 (Fall-Winter 1993): 120.

³ Elizabeth Wiskemann, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, s.v. "Czechoslovak History: Hapsburg Rule (1526-1918)," 2008, accessed May 15, 2015, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/149152/Czechoslovak-history/42101/Habsburg-rule-1526-1918>.

⁴ Thomas Capek, *The Czechs (Bohemians) in America: A Study of their National, Cultural, Political, Social, Economic, and Religious Life* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1920), 25-29.

⁵ Capek, *The Czechs (Bohemians) in America*, 37.

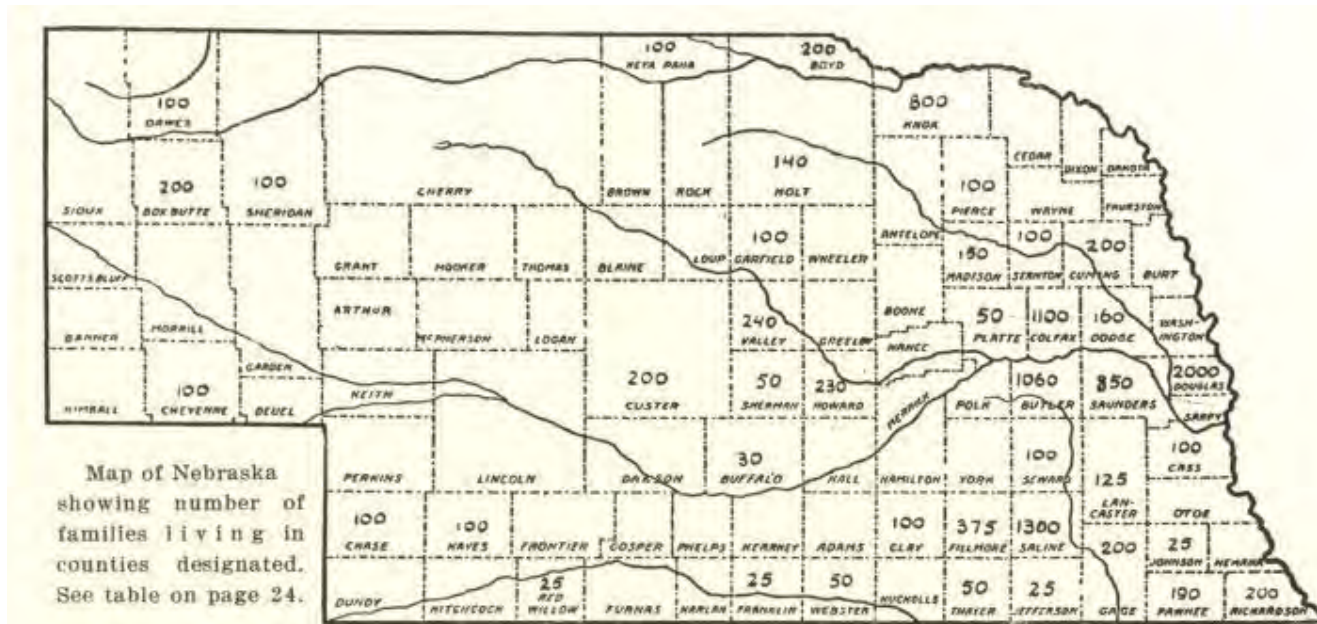


Figure 56: Czech Settlement in Nebraska.

(Source: Rose Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*)

typically hailed from the Bohemian middle class and had the economic means to pay for the expensive passage to America. They came to this country because they were unable to acquire land, and the social status it conferred, through the typical inheritance structure that prevailed in Europe at the time.⁶

Upon coming to America, Thomas Capek notes, Czech immigrants tended to move inland to agricultural states.⁷ The rich farmlands of Wisconsin drew many early Czech immigrants, who sought economic stability through agricultural pursuits.⁸ Others strove to achieve economic prosperity in more urban communities such as Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and New York.⁹ During the late 1840s and early 1850s, several predominately Czech communities were founded, including those at Catspring, Texas and Caledonia, Wisconsin.¹⁰

Some of the first Czech pioneers to Nebraska arrived in the late 1850s.¹¹ The arrival of the railroad to Nebraska in 1865 brought even more Czech immigrants to the state. By 1870, Douglas, Saunders, and Saline Counties, all in eastern Nebraska, boasted the largest concentrations of Czech settlers. Many of these immigrants were farmers. Nebraska as a whole attracted the greatest concentration

⁶ Opatrny, "Problems in the History of Czech Immigration to America," 123-124.

⁷ Capek, *The Cechs (Bohemians) in America*, 34.

⁸ Ibid., 34-37.

⁹ Ibid., 36.

¹⁰ George Kovtun, "The Czechs in America: Chronology," Library of Congress, European Reading Room, April 23, 2014, accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/imcz/ndl.html>.

¹¹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 19-31.

of Czech immigrants between 1859 and 1872, with large numbers also moving to Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.¹²

While some early Czech pioneers lived out their days in Nebraska, others were more transient. Enough of them stayed, however, for Nebraska to acquire the greatest number of Czech settlers on the Great Plains.¹³ Czechs settled throughout Nebraska, with settlement most dense in the eastern portion of the state but also notable in the north and central regions. The strong presence and influence of Czechs in Nebraska by the early 1900s is reflected in the establishment of a Department of Bohemian at the State University (later the University of Nebraska Lincoln) in 1907. This department was the first of its kind at a state university in the United States and others were soon established at universities in Iowa, Texas, and Ohio.¹⁴

By the 1920s, the strong identity of Czechs in Nebraska and other states where they had settled in large numbers began to wane. During World War I, Czech language use decreased as a result of strict language laws enacted by the United States government.¹⁵ Due to social pressures and anti-foreign feelings that arose during the war, Czechs citizens could not express their heritage and take value in it to the same extent as they had before. During this period older Czech-Americans often did not speak in their native tongue, leaving younger Czech-Americans with little to no knowledge of the Bohemian language. Czech-Americans frequently married non-Czechs, and many never visited Bohemia. Younger Czechs identified much more readily with the American culture that they were immersed in at school. As language use declined, Czech language books, newspapers, and periodicals slowly disappeared as did Czech plays and musical productions. Membership in Sokol Halls and other Czech organizations also fell.¹⁶

After the war, Czech immigration was significantly reduced due to more stringent immigration laws.¹⁷ In the subsequent decades, Czech immigration continued on a much smaller scale than previously. Those who came mainly did so in order to flee Nazi or Communist oppression and they tended to settle in large metropolitan areas rather than in the sparsely populated agricultural counties that abound in Nebraska.¹⁸ Over the course of the twentieth century, Czech fraternal organizations, once restricted to those of Czech heritage who could also speak the language, began to loosen their membership rules so that anyone could join. As of 1976, only 9 of the 51 Czech lodges in Nebraska continued to conduct their meetings in Czech.¹⁹

While Nebraska has experienced an overall decline in Czech culture and language over the course of the twentieth century, a strong Czech tradition remains extant in the state today. In 1963 the non-profit Nebraska Czechs Incorporated was organized "to develop and encourage interest, research,

¹² William C. Sherman and Playford V. Thorson, editors, "Czechs," in *Plains Folk, North Dakota's Ethnic History* (Fargo: North Dakota Institute of Regional Studies, 1988), 307.

¹³ Frederick C. Luebke, "Ethnic Group Settlement on the Great Plains," *The Western Historical Quarterly* 8, no. 4 (1977): 418, accessed May 15, 2015, <http://www.jstor.org>.

¹⁴ Sarka B. Hrbkova, "Bohemians in Nebraska," *Nebraska State Historical Society Publications* XIX (1919): 158.

¹⁵ Joseph G. Svoboda, "Czech-Americans: The Love of Liberty," *Nebraska History* 74 (Fall-Winter 1993): 167-169.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 169.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 171-172.

¹⁸ David Murphy, "Czechs," in *Encyclopedia on the Great Plains*, edited by David J. Wishart (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 73-74.

¹⁹ "Czech-Americans: The Love of Liberty," 169-172.

and inquiry into the culture, traditions, and history” of Czech immigrants. The group has ten active chapters, including one in the Saline County town of Wilber. Each chapter holds an annual Czech festival that celebrates the music, food, and folklore of the old country.²⁰ In addition, many towns and rural communities retain houses, community buildings, and even cemeteries constructed or founded by Czech immigrants.

SETTLEMENT IN SALINE COUNTY

The earliest known Czech natives to Saline County came in 1865. Brothers Frank and Joseph Jelinek and their relative Vaclav Sestak (Shestak) led the way. Frank Jelinek had immigrated to Manitowoc, Wisconsin in 1854 while Joseph immigrated to that same state at an unknown date. The Jelineks were convinced to try their luck in Nebraska by Sestak, who was then living in Arago, Richardson County, Nebraska and working at a tavern. The Jelineks left Wisconsin in the spring of 1865 and met up with Sestak in Arago, which was located approximately 10 miles northeast of Falls City, Nebraska along the Missouri River.²¹

Initially the three men intended to assess potential land claims near Humboldt, approximately 28 miles west of Arago, but they were convinced by a freighter to turn their sights one hundred miles northwest to the land along the Big Blue River. From Nebraska City, where they secured a plat of the county, the men walked seventy-five miles to Saline County, arriving at a place near the present day site of Crete. Upon their arrival, they encountered settler Joseph Bickle, one of the founders of Crete. Bickle showed them around the area. Finding it suitable, each of the Czech men took advantage of the recently approved Homestead Act and filed an application for 160 acres of land. Vaclav Petracek, who was then a tavern owner in Nebraska City, filed a claim on the same day as the Jelineks and Sestak but did not settle on his homestead until the following year.²²

On a return trip to Wisconsin to sell their land, retrieve their families and secure supplies, the Jelineks told their Czech friends about Saline County's many advantages and abundance of good farmland. Frank Krten, Frank Stejskal and Joseph Havlik immediately set out from Wisconsin with their families, made land claims adjacent to one another at the west end of the present day site of Crete, and settled there in August 1865, a few months before the Jelineks returned from Wisconsin. In October 1865, the Jelineks set out from Wisconsin with a large party that included their wives and children, their father, Vaclav, their brother, Vit, along with Joseph Hynek, Matej and Frank Kubicek, Vaclav Kubicek, and Jiri (George) Krajnik and his mother. From St. Joseph, Missouri, the party traveled two hundred miles by wagon. Upon arriving at their new home, Frank Jelinek's widow described how the family lived with eighteen people in a covered, windowless dugout. In the spring of 1866, the newly arrived settlers planted crops and assisted one another in improving their land claims. More substantial dugouts were constructed. To secure supplies they and other pioneers then living at the eastern end of Saline County had to travel to either Lincoln or Nebraska City by horse or foot. For their first Fourth of July in Nebraska, the Jelineks and their Czech friends gathered at Vaclav Petracek's farm and celebrated with dancing, music and food.²³

²⁰ Helen Novak Baer, "Nebraska Czechs Incorporated," in *Czechs and Nebraska*, edited by Vladimir Kucera and Alfred Novacek (Ord, NE: Quiz Graphic Arts, Inc., 1967), 388-389.

²¹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

More Czech settlers continued to arrive in the subsequent years. Like the Jelineks and Sestak, Saline County was not their first stopping point after coming from their homeland. Rather they came after having lived in other states, including Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, or from elsewhere in the state, including Nebraska City and Arago.²⁴ The arrival of a line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad from Lincoln in 1871 helped to accelerate this settlement into Saline County. Not only was the journey to Saline now faster, but the county was also better connected to supply lines. Additionally, the sale of land adjoining the railway by the railroad companies opened up new opportunities for those seeking to own their own property.²⁵

The Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company actively worked to entice settlers like the Czechs by producing advertisements in their native languages and by offering them incentives. Beginning in 1871, land advertisements attracting Czechs to Saline and other Nebraska counties were often published in the *Pokrok Zapadu (Progress of the West)*, a widely read Czech language newspaper in Nebraska that was founded by Edward Rosewater in Omaha. The Burlington & Missouri helped to finance the paper and one of their land agents, Vaclav L. Vodicka, an immigrant from Bohemia who settled in Omaha in 1868, arranged the content. The Burlington & Missouri was the only railroad



Figure 57: Czech-language pamphlet produced by Burlington & Missouri Railroad Co. (Source: Newberry Library)

company in Nebraska to offer financial incentives to settlers so they might move further into the state, away from the Missouri River. These incentives included reimbursing settlers for transportation expenses and sometimes even providing discounts on land payments for those who cultivated their land and remained on it for a certain number of years.²⁶

By 1875, Czech settlement was evident across Saline County, although it was most concentrated along the Big Blue River near Crete and Wilber. Over the next few decades Czechs continued to concentrate at the east end of the county, and south of what is today Highway 41.²⁷ Many of the Czechs who came to Saline County settled on homesteads and worked as farmers, but others moved to the burgeoning towns and held occupations as jewelers, watchmakers, brewery operators, millers, retailers, journalists, musicians, or politicians. Saline County as a whole acquired the distinction of having the greatest number of Czechs living in its rural areas in comparison to any other county in Nebraska while Wilber in particular attracted many Czechs and they comprised most of that town's population by the turn of the twentieth century.²⁸

The large migration of Czech settlers to Saline County permitted the continuation of their spoken language and allowed for the proliferation of fraternal organizations, social interest groups, religious congregations, educational clubs, music and theater groups, and

²⁴ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 19-31.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Verne Anthony, resident of Wilber, NE and volunteer at Wilber Czech Museum, telephone conversation with Caitlin Kolb, April 1, 2015; Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97; Andreas, "Saline County," in *History of the State of Nebraska*.

²⁸ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97.

publications throughout the county. By the 1910s, there was no shortage of offerings for those Czech-Americans seeking ways to bond with their countrymen and remain abreast of current events. The county boasted three Sokol organizations, at least sixteen benevolent organizations, five Czech churches, and two Czech language publications. In the coming decades, the Czech culture in Saline County began to wane, just as it did throughout Nebraska after World War I. This is most reflected in the disappearance of many of the organizations that once served this actively represented group. For example, most of the benevolent organizations are gone, only one of the Sokol groups remains active today, only two Czech-built churches are extant, and no Czech-language newspapers exist.

Yet even as the Czech presence in Saline has declined, a Czech influence continues to permeate the county. Wilber in particular, with its strong Czech roots, has become the epicenter of the county's efforts to preserve and celebrate its Czech heritage. The town has a Czech museum, a Czech heritage room at its local library and, since 1962, has hosted an annual Czech Festival that draws thousands of visitors to the town each summer to experience Czech music, dancing, food and handicraft. In 1987, Wilber's Czech heritage was recognized on a national level when it was officially declared the Czech Capital of the United States.²⁹ Today, Saline County's Czech heritage remains visible both through these celebrations of its heritage as well as the built resources constructed by and for Czechs that remain standing.

ARCHITECTURAL MANIFESTATIONS OF CZECH CULTURE IN SALINE COUNTY

Czech immigrants coming to America brought with them the knowledge of a variety of traditional construction systems and forms from their home country. In some settlement areas in Nebraska and elsewhere, first generation Czechs employed traditional log and stone construction practices when designing buildings and choosing materials, particularly in areas with an ample supply of timber or stone. Sources that discuss this and the built examples that utilized them, can be consulted in the bibliography. However, since Saline has little stone deposits and few trees, examples of traditional construction techniques are limited in the county.

Similarly, there is a lack of buildings that reflect Czech Old World forms. It may be inaccurate to assume, however, that early Czech-Americans in Saline County simply discarded their ancestral construction traditions in favor of Americanized ones. It is possible that buildings that reflected Czech building practices no longer exist, having been constructed from low-grade materials, or were not properly recorded before their disappearance, having been replaced on active farmsteads with more modern structures. In adjacent Fillmore County, for example, a handful of Czech-American horizontal timber structures have been recorded and this county is located further west and was settled by Czechs in 1867, two years after the first Czechs moved to Saline County.³⁰

While few examples remain of buildings constructed by the first Czech American immigrants to Saline County during the early years of settlement, many more are present from around the turn of the century and thereafter. These buildings coincide with a time of many changes within the building industry that were due in large part to the presence of the railroad, which allowed for the greater

²⁹ Wilber Area Chamber of Commerce, "About," accessed May 20, 2015, <http://www.wilberchamberofcommerce.com/about/>.

³⁰ David Murphy, "Old Cuts in New Wood: Traditional Czech Carpentry in the Central Great Plains," Nebraska History 84 (2003): 5, accessed May 15, 2015. <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH2003CzechCarpentry.pdf>.

distribution of mass-produced building materials and the spread of ideas on home building shared within the pages of plan books, journals and magazines. With the arrival of industrialization to the construction industry, handcraft, local knowledge and local materials, including those brought by Czech immigrants from their homeland, frequently gave way to large-scale manufacturing and the adoption of new methods and materials favored for their efficiency and economy, such as balloon frame construction rather than log or sod construction for residences.

David Murphy notes that coinciding with industrialization was a generational shift in which the children of the first wave of settlers came of age and began to construct buildings. Raised in the United States, this new generation was “submerged in the contexts of the new land.” Their knowledge of construction, and their ideas of modernity and the ideal building forms were typically informed by their non-Czech contemporaries rather than their parents. As well, the “new materials and the new carpentry were far more accessible and much easier to learn,” making them preferable over more complex techniques that had been employed for generations in the Czech lands.³¹ As a result of industrialization and a generational shift, extant buildings constructed by Czechs in Saline County more obviously reflects methods and materials readily available to them by the 1870s and that were also being used by many other groups at the same time. Therefore, in order to identify Czech-American buildings and sites in Saline County, this survey made use of county maps, county histories, information provided by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office and sources discussing Czech-American building types and traditions. The findings below analyze Saline County’s Czech-American heritage and its built resources through an exploration of the themes of housing, religion, associations, politics and journalism.

RESIDENTIAL

HOUSES

In their Czech homeland, houses were built of logs, timber, or mass wall construction. The choice of material always depended upon its geographic frequency, but was also sometimes influenced by the wealth of the person building the home. In America, Czech immigrants utilized only a few of the many house types common to their homeland. According to Murphy, the “Czech American house was related more in form than aesthetics to Old World models.”³² For example, the large expanses of land available for settlement in America led to the replacement of compact houses attached to farm buildings with larger houses surrounded by detached outbuildings. In Czech villages, residences typically followed a basic three-part layout with a main room, entrance hall and storeroom arranged linearly. Houses were oriented with the narrow, gable end facing the street and a side entrance accessed via a private courtyard.³³

Like other early pioneer groups to the Great Plains, the first Czech arrivals to Saline County utilized local materials to provide themselves with immediate shelter after arriving to their homestead claims. For example brothers Matej (Matthew) and Frank Kovarik constructed a dugout shelter on their homestead that consisted of a hole in the ground topped by log walls and a wood roof. Dugouts were

³¹ Murphy, “Old Cuts in New Wood,” 16.

³² David Murphy, “Czechs,” in *America’s Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America*, edited by Dell Upton (Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986), 115.

³³ Murphy, “Czechs,” in *America’s Architectural Roots*, 114-115; Murphy, “Czech Architecture,” in *Encyclopedia on the Great Plains*, 73-74.

advantageous because they could be built quickly and economically using what was at hand with the added benefit that, in a region with few trees, they required little lumber. At the same time they were often a very temporary dwelling options as they were cramped and permitted little light.³⁴ As soon as settlers were able, they often began to construct fully wood houses that were more expensive, but also more durable and comfortable.

The log houses constructed by early Czech immigrants were likely located close to the Big Blue River or other waterways, where trees were most plentiful.³⁵ According to David Murphy, recorded examples of log houses in Saline County followed American building practices rather than Czech precedents.³⁶

Masonry construction was also used by at least some of these early immigrants. As with log homes, early masonry homes depended upon access to nearby material, in this case stone deposits. Czech immigrant Frank Pisar used the limestone that ran beneath his farmstead in central Saline County to build a home and barn in 1877 and 1888, respectively. The one-and-a-half story rectangular plan home has walls of limestone laid in a rubble-stone technique and a side gabled roof. The main level is divided into two rooms in a hall-parlor arrangement while the loft is one large space that was originally accessed from the exterior through the attic dormer, a design trait common to central and Eastern Europe. Later an interior stair was added. According to Janet Jefferies and David Murphy, who prepared the National Register nomination for the property, in overall form the Pisar home appears to follow American trends rather than Czech customs, except for how the loft access was originally designed.³⁷

Prominent Czech businessmen that established themselves in the towns of Crete and Wilber often took advantage of the new standardization of methods and materials and built their homes in the prevailing styles of the day. Of the known examples of such homes, none follow Czech forms or incorporate Czech ornamentation. In Crete, Charles Aron, a tailor, Francis J. Stejskal, a family physician, and J.P. Cervený, owner of a general merchandise store, were some of the Czech immigrants who constructed homes in the College Hill neighborhood. Aron's two-story Queen Anne house at 638 E. 14th Street was built in 1907 and has a cross gabled form and a curvilinear porch (SA01-096). Stejskal's modest one-and-a-half story bungalow at 1143 Hawthorne Avenue has a jerkin head side gabled roof (SA01-216). Cervený's two-and-a-half story Craftsman style home at 1142 Hawthorne has a side



Figure 58: Stejskal Residence, Crete, NE (SA01-216)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

³⁴ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ David Murphy, Senior research architect at the Nebraska State Historical Society, message to author, May 12, 2015.

³⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Frank Pisar Farmstead, Dorchester, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 86002275.

gabled roof and full frontal porch (SA01-119).³⁸ In Wilber, Cenak Duras, considered Nebraska's most distinguished Czech of his time, built a two story Queen Anne house at 205 N. Franklin with an irregular plan and a wrap-around porch on the west side of town (SA09-002).³⁹ Nearby at 605 S. School Street Henry Pospisil, who came to Wilber in 1886, built the first cement block house in the city (SA09-001).⁴⁰



Figure 59: Pospisil Residence, Wilber, NE (SA09-042)

(Source: APMA, 2015)

Many less prominent Czech immigrants also lived in homes that exemplified the popular trends of the day, albeit at a more modest level. According to Murphy, rectangular and L-Shaped plans were popular among early Czechs residents, whose homes often included a front facing gable, a front or side porch and ornamentation regulated to the porch and gable.⁴¹

In an effort to uncover links between properties exhibiting features popular with Czech residents and possible Czech ownership, researchers compared selected properties surveyed in February 2015 with names of property owners provided by the State Historic Preservation Office. Owners with surnames that sounded Czech were then further researched using census and death records to determine their ethnicity. This methodology, while not comprehensive in its scope, did result in the discovery of one residence in Tobias (SA07-056), which the State Historic Preservation Office database describes as the residence of John Sakryt, a carpenter and cabinet maker who came to America in 1889.⁴² It is not known, however, if Sakryt actually built the house or simply was one of the early owners. Additionally, if Sakryt did in fact build the house, it is difficult to know with certainty that the features he chose to include, such as simple ornamentation at the gable end and along the porch, actually reflected a Czech influence or were utilized because they were commercially available late Victorian details and popular amongst house builders of the period.

FARMSTEADS

On some Czech American farmsteads, patterns from the Old World were utilized but adapted to take advantage of the more expansive land available to farmers on the Great Plains. For example, the tradition of organizing a connected series of buildings and structures around a central courtyard was often employed, but the arrangement was looser, with buildings and structures spaced further apart from one another. The vast amount of land available on the Great Plains meant that few Czech farmers followed the custom of siting a house at one side and then attaching a storeroom, cow shed, and stable to the rear of this, placing a barn at the back, locating animal and implement storage sheds at the opposite side of the courtyard and then a granary at the front. Instead, Czech-American

³⁸ National Register of Historic Places, College Hill Historic District, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 83001101.

³⁹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97; Souvenir Edition of the *Wilber Republican*, 1903 & 1913, provided by Verne Anthony of the Wilber Czech Museum, March 2015.

⁴⁰ Souvenir Edition of the *Wilber Republican*, 1903; Andreas, "Saline County," in *History of the State of Nebraska*.

⁴¹ Murphy, "Czechs," in *America's Architectural Roots*, 114-116.

⁴² Obituary for John Sakryt, 1862-1954, accessed May 15, 2015, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSfn=john&GSiman=1&GScid=101540&GRid=87391318&>.

farmers might site their home toward the front, place a barn at the rear, and then locate a fowl house and grains structures on opposite ends. The barn would often depart from the Czech custom of separating out animal and crop storage uses and instead follow the American tradition of combining these functions so that the barn provided shelter for cows and horses and storage for grain and hay.⁴³ The field survey and subsequent analysis of Czech-American farmsteads in Saline County found such features to be present at a percentage of the twenty-one identified sites.

The first Czech immigrants to come to Saline County acquired large tracts of land under the provisions set forth in the Homestead Act and set to work cultivating the land to grow crops for their own use and to sell. They built farmhouses for their families to live in and outbuildings for their livestock and crop storage. The materiality for their farmhouses followed the same evolution as the homes described in the section above. What set the farmsteads apart, of course, was the size of their property and its agricultural use. As with houses, Czech farmsteads are present throughout Saline County, but are often difficult to readily identify, particularly because many of the buildings are set back from the road and none are publically accessible. Additionally, farmsteads are a constantly evolving property type; while the general arrangement and certain buildings may remain extant a century or more after the founding, changes continually occur to ensure that the farm remains usable and capable of accommodating the newest agricultural innovations.

To identify Czech farmsteads, researchers culled the surveyed properties database after concluding the field work and identified all farmsteads with extant homes, eliminating those with ranch and bungalow homes due to their inability to convey an association with Czech heritage. Next the remaining seventy-nine properties were compared to the 1900 atlas of Saline County to identify ownership. These names were then searched in the 1900 census to confirm ethnicity.

Twenty-one properties with historic Czech ownership, including the National Register-listed Frank Pizar Farmstead, were uncovered.⁴⁴ Aerial maps and photographs taken during the field survey were utilized to identify the overall arrangement of these farmsteads, and the appearance of their farm houses. Fifteen of these had at least a house and barn extant, which allowed for an analysis of whether the farmsteads followed the loose courtyard arrangement notable of Czech-American farmsteads. Out of the ten, four also had extant outbuildings, which were located opposite and behind the house. The house extant at twenty of the properties reflected a variety of house forms, including I-, L-, and T-shaped, rectangular, and pyramidal. Many of these appear to have received additions or alterations over the years, making it difficult to decipher particular Czech features that may have once been present.

Of these, ten (two-thirds) did follow the pattern of having the house located at the front and barn located at the rear.

In order to provide final confirmation of the Czech association of these properties, further research and on-site investigations of the buildings are needed. Additionally, analyzing these properties

⁴³ Murphy, "Czech Architecture," in *Encyclopedia on the Great Plains*, 73-74; David Murphy, "Jejich Antonie: Czechs, The Land, Cather, and The Pavelka Farmstead" *Great Plains Quarterly* Paper 812, (1994): 93, accessed May 15, 2015, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/812>.

⁴⁴ Unfortunately the Frank Pizar Farmstead has lost its historic house and many of its outbuildings, making it impossible to visualize its identified courtyard arrangement without the documentation included in the National Register form. However, for the purposes of this modest analysis, because the historic arrangement is known, the Pizar Farmstead has been included as an example of a Czech-American farmstead with a loose courtyard arrangement.

through a comparison with non-Czech farmsteads in the county would help to build a stronger case for whether or not features observed at these farmsteads are uniquely Czech or reflective of broader trends in farmstead arrangements.

RELIGIOUS

Amongst early Czech immigrants, views on religion were divisive. Under the Counter Reformation, the Roman Catholic religion was imposed on the Czech people, many of whom had been ardent Protestants before, by their Hapsburgs rulers. Around 1848, with Hapsburg power weakening and emigration out of Czech lands increasing, the Freethought movement was established by those Czechs who embraced logic and reason and wanted to be free of religious doctrine and structure.⁴⁵

Upon coming to America, more than half of Czech immigrants left the Catholic Church. They abandoned organized religion and instead positioned themselves under the banner of freethinkers, joining Czech freethinking societies that emerged in America after 1870.⁴⁶ Not all freethinkers thought the same, of course, with a small handful being militantly atheistic and the majority embracing religious tolerance and agnosticism. The freethinkers were widely influential among the Czech communities, establishing their own fraternal and mutual aid societies, educational and physical fitness organizations, and even periodicals.⁴⁷ Where Catholic Czech immigrants existed in sizable enough numbers, they established Czech speaking parishes, and sometimes separate Catholic fraternal organizations.⁴⁸ Throughout the United States, a small number of Czech Protestants and Jews did exist, but their numbers were inconsequential in comparison to the freethinkers and Catholics. In Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota, as well as Illinois, New York and Iowa, Czech freethinkers far outnumbered Czech Catholics.⁴⁹

Although the majority of Saline County's Czech immigrants associated with the Freethinking movement, a sizable enough population of religiously-minded Czechs existed to result in the formation of congregations, and sometimes even the erection of churches to serve their needs.⁵⁰ Around the turn of the twentieth century, Saline County boasted congregations of Czech Catholics, Methodists and Congregationalists. In the early years, the religiously minded had the option to either attend weekly services at non-Czech speaking churches, travel far distances to attend Czech language services in adjoining counties, or wait on infrequent visits from Czech-speaking clergy. In the case of Czech Catholics, Czech-speaking priests came infrequently from the larger cities of Plattsmouth, Omaha, or Lincoln and held services in borrowed churches or businesses. Often the desire for a dedicated Czech church was hindered by a lack of available Czech-speaking clergy and of a sufficient congregation. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, however, the Czech Catholics and Methodists in Crete, and Czech Catholics in Wilber and near Tobias had sizable enough congregations to warrant the construction of churches in which they could worship together as an ethnic group.⁵¹

⁴⁵ Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 147-169.

⁴⁶ Ibid., 148-149.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 150-163.

⁴⁸ Svoboda, "Czech-Americans: The Love of Liberty," 159.

⁴⁹ Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 148-153.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 152.

⁵¹ Vladimir Kucera, editor, *Czech Churches in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Kucera, 1974).

The Czech churches constructed in Saline County had few physical features to indicate their association with the Czech people. Instead, they most often exhibited styles favored by the denominations that they were a part of. For examples, a simplified version of the Gothic Revival, most notable for its pointed arch windows, was a favored style for the Catholic churches, and was utilized in Crete and Tobias. In form, these Catholic churches followed the traditional rectangular plan with the main entry and the altar at the opposite ends of the short sides of the rectangle. Similarly, the Methodist church followed the Akron Plan, a form first introduced in Akron, Ohio in 1866, which allowed for the close connection of the worship space with Sunday school classrooms.⁵² The Akron Plan, Anne C. Loveland and Otis B. Wheeler explain, consists of “a diagonally oriented auditorium with curved seating and a pulpit platform in one corner” and the main entry at the opposite corner. Sunday school classrooms then flanked the auditorium.⁵³ The Akron Plan was a popular Protestant church form throughout the United States up until the 1920s and 1930s, and was utilized by at least four different congregations in Saline County.

Wilber was the first to construct a Czech Catholic Church. In 1878, dedicated missionary Reverend Frantisek Smutny arrived in Wilber and gathered together the faithful to build a new church on a site along Third Street east of the railroad tracks. Unfortunately this structure burned down shortly before its completion. In 1880, Reverend Filip Maly, S.J. became pastor of the church and he bestowed the parish with the name **St. Wenceslaus**, in honor of a Czech prince and martyr. The new St. Wenceslas Church did not have a permanent home again until 1882 when it acquired and renovated a dilapidated church along Main Street that had belonged to the Church of Christ Congregation. A large oil painting of St. Wenceslaus that Reverend Maly had purchased while traveling in Czechoslovakia was hung above the main altar.

Over the next decade, the church was continually improved. In 1888 stained glass windows were added to the church. The windows were dedicated to Czech-American individuals who played an important role in the church's short history. Around this same time, the church acquired three bells from a bell foundry in St. Louis, Missouri that were hung in the church's belfry. Also in the 1880s a rectory and one room schoolhouse were built nearby. The school was never used, due to a shortage of teachers and finances. In 1938 a new, larger rectory was built adjacent to the church.⁵⁴



Figure 60: St. Wenceslaus Church, , Wilber, NE (SA09-078)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

⁵² Kally Mavromatis, *Images of America: Akron Churches Early Architecture* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 8.

⁵³ Anne C. Loveland and Otis B. Wheeler, *From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History* (Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2003), 67, 69.

⁵⁴ Mrs. Floyd Herman. Edited by Larry L. Vilda. "Saline County - Wilber, Saint Wenceslaus Church," in *Czech Churches in Nebraska*, edited by Vladimir Kucera.

Shortly thereafter the church chose to relocate to a site then on the northern outskirts of town. It took the parish ten years to raise the necessary funds. Finally, between 1948 and 1949 the new church was constructed. Josef Spurek, a contractor of Czech heritage, oversaw construction of the church.⁵⁵

The rectangular church has stone curtain walls, arched stained glass windows, and a bell tower integrated into the façade near the front entry. Many items from the old church were incorporated into the new edifice, including the stained glass windows, the three bells, and the painting of St. Wenceslaus. A short while later, the sanctuary was completely renovated with new altars, statues of Czech saints, communion rail, and the interior was completely repainted. Additional improvements occurred in 1960 when the bells were electrified, the painting of St. Wenceslaus was restored, and the statues of Czech saints were repainted.

The church retains an active parish today, although none of the five Catholic Fraternal Organizations that once served the church no longer exist.⁵⁶ The primary features that indicate the church's Czech heritage are the congregation's name, the stained glass windows associated with notable local Czech-Americans, and the statues of Czech saints in the sanctuary.

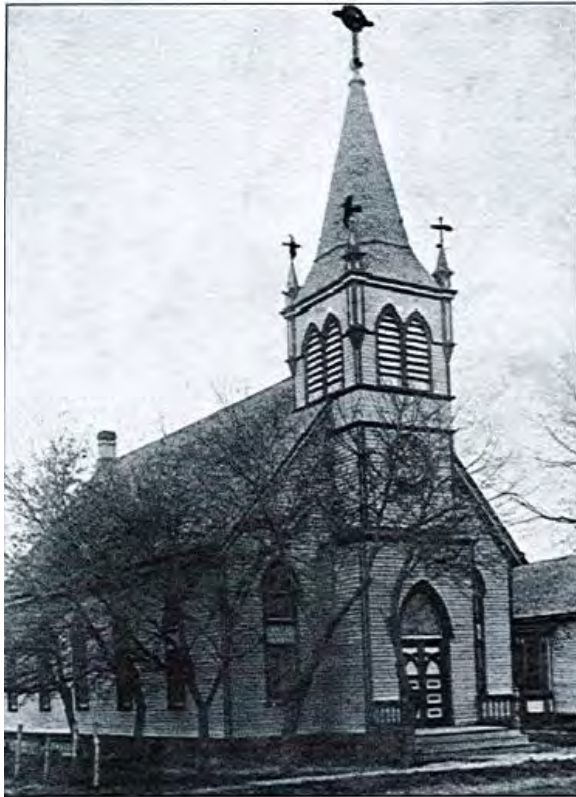


Figure 61: St. Ludmilla's Catholic Church, Crete, NE
(Source: Crete Historical Society, *Images of America: Crete*, 60)

The Crete vicinity received its first dedicated Czech-speaking priest in November 1889 when Father Bouska emigrated from Europe. At Crete he first conducted services in Czech at the German-speaking St. James church while at the same time leading the charge to get a Czech church built in the area. In July 1890, construction on **St. Ludmila**, located on the northwest corner of Tenth Street and Hawthorne Avenue, was completed. The church was named for the Czech saint and martyr Ludmila of Bohemia. According to Larry L. Vilda, the building "displayed a typically European style." Sitting upon a stone foundation, the frame building had a steeply pitched front gabled roof, which intersected with a bell tower above the central front entry. Pointed arch window and door openings emphasized the Gothic Revival style. The main portions of the building were painted white while the trim was painted a darker color.

In addition to services, the Crete Czech Catholic church hosted gatherings of the Czech Catholic fraternal organization, Western Bohemian Catholic Union, as well as other Catholic groups. The church flourished for the next two decades, with congregants coming from as far off as Lancaster County. The church closed in 1915 due to financial difficulties and an inability to pay for repairs

⁵⁵ Herman and Vilda, "Saline County - Wilber, Saint Wenceslaus Church," in *Czech Churches in Nebraska*.

⁵⁶Ibid.

after lightning struck the building. The congregation merged with that of Saint James, which had changed its name to Sacred Heart Church around 1909, and the Czech Catholic lodges were dissolved. The church building itself was dismantled and moved to a rural location to be reused as a farm building.⁵⁷ Its current status is unknown.

The Sacred Heart church that the Czech congregation was absorbed into had been constructed over two decades earlier, in 1892, and remains standing today.⁵⁸ It is much larger than St. Ludmila's and of brick, but has the same overall form with a front gabled roof and projecting central entry capped by a bell tower. It also evokes the Gothic Revival style with pointed arch window and door openings. This more lavish building includes the additional Gothic Revival features of brick buttresses, raised brick arches beneath the roof line, and stone tracery within the stained glass window openings.



Figure 62: Czech Methodist Church in Crete

(Source: Crete Historical Society, *Images of America*, 60)

It is not known if any Czech statuary or Czech-related items were brought from St. Ludmila's when the two congregations joined. Today the Sacred Heart church does not appear to bear any indication of the history of the Czech congregation that joined with it around 1915.

Crete's **Czech Methodist Church** was built 18 years after the Catholic Church, in 1908, and sited on the northwest corner of Tenth Street and Juniper Avenue. Sometime before 1920, the congregation vacated the church and it was moved to Ninth Street and Maine (now Main) Avenue for use as a duplex. In the 1970s, it was demolished.⁵⁹ The two-story frame church had an Akron plan with a central bell tower and simple detailing.

The exterior of the Czech Methodist Church did not embody specific Czech features, and it is unknown if the interior did before the building's change in use.

The idea for a Czech Catholic Church in Tobias did not materialize until the spring of 1913. Before this time, Czech Catholics from Tobias and the surrounding communities, amounting to 20 families, attended mass in Milligan, a 20 to 24 mile round trip journey, or waited for a visiting priest to say mass in the Section house in Tobias. In 1913, three Tobias residents, all named Joseph, who attended the services in Milligan, approached the priest there about building a Catholic Church in Tobias. The priest, Father Adolph M. Mosler, appointed the three men to serve as a building committee and secure funds for the church. He also decided the church should be named **St. Joseph's** in honor of these men's efforts.⁶⁰

⁵⁷ Larry L. Vilda, "Saline County – Crete, Saint Ludmila's Church," in *Czech Churches in Nebraska*, edited by Vladimir Kucera; Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 295-329.

⁵⁸ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 59.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 60.

⁶⁰ American Legion Auxillary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 14.

A site was chosen at the north edge of Tobias and construction proceeded quickly on the church, with the parishioners doing most of the work. Augustus H. Franck designed the building. John Sakrty and John Anderson provided the carpentry work.⁶¹ The dedication took place in November 1913.⁶² The frame building, which still stands today, has the traditional rectangular form that was used for many Catholic churches. It is a simply ornamented building with Gothic Revival features visible in its pointed arch stained glass windows and arched central entryway. It does not appear that Czech-related features, such as statues of Czech saints or stained glass windows with a Czech theme, were incorporated into the church.⁶³



Figure 63: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Tobias, NE (SA07-021)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

From the beginning St. Joseph shared a priest with the parish in Milligan. In 1984, Tobias' centennial year, the congregation consisted of 35 families, some of whom traveled 12 miles from Western.⁶⁴ At an unknown date, an addition was constructed to one side of the front entry and the building was vinyl sided. Today the church continues to be used, by Catholics regardless of ethnic origin. The church does not appear to contain any physical indications of its Czech heritage.

In summary, Czech features in religious buildings in Saline County are limited. The Czech heritage of St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart Church is only clear if one delves into their histories of establishment and assimilation. St. Wenceslaus Church stands alone in providing clear indications of its Czech heritage through its name and the presence of honorific stained glass windows, statuary of Czech saints and a painting of St. Wenceslaus imported from the Czech homeland.

CEMETERIES

As more Czech immigrants entered Nebraska's counties such as Saline over the course of the late nineteenth century, the need arose not just for buildings in which to house themselves and gather together as a community but also for cemeteries where their dead could receive a dignified burial. Saline County holds the distinction for having the first cemetery established by Czech settlers to Nebraska, Jindra Cemetery (SA00-143), known today as Blue Valley Cemetery, and the first wholly Czech cemetery in Nebraska, Bohemian National Cemetery (SA00-144).⁶⁵ Both of these were established in 1868. Thereafter, Czech immigrants founded four more cemeteries throughout the county, bringing the total to six.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Mrs. Joseph Baxa, "Saline County – Tobias, Saint Joseph's Church" in *Czech Churches in Nebraska*, edited by Vladimir Kucera.

⁶³ Judy Rada, Saline County Historical Society and resident of Tobias, NE, telephone conversation with Caitlin Kolb, May 15, 2015.

⁶⁴ American Legion Auxillary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 14.

⁶⁵ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 431-432.

The presence of the Czech American cemeteries helps to shed light on Czech settlement patterns in Saline County. Three of the Czech cemeteries are located at the east end of the county in the Crete, Big Blue and Wilber Townships, one is located in the center in the North Fork Township, and two are located at the west end of the county in Turkey Creek Township. Unlike Czech cemeteries in other Nebraska counties that were founded with some religious affiliation, those in Saline are not linked to any specific religious group. At least five of the cemeteries were initially founded by Czech freethinkers and historically called National Cemeteries (Národní Hřbitov).⁶⁶

In the homeland of Czech settlers, cemeteries often featured extensive landscaping of trees, shrubs and flowers that were carefully tended to celebrate and honor the deceased. Vladimír Kučera describes these Czech cemeteries as essentially “beautiful gardens, almost poetic in their quiet splendor.”⁶⁷ In the new world, this custom of thoughtfully landscaping the cemetery grounds to create a park-like environment remains visible at a number of Czech-American cemeteries throughout Nebraska, including two in Saline County: the Bohemian National Cemetery (SA00-144) and the Bohemian-Slavonian Cemetery (SA00-151).

The establishment of the **Blue Valley Cemetery** (SA00-143) can be traced back to 1865, when the first Czech immigrants came to the county. Shortly after the Jindras returned from Wisconsin with their family and friends in November of that year, they were faced with the dilemma of where to bury their dead in dignity when an elderly woman, Mrs. Krajník, died during a snowstorm. She was buried along the banks of the Big Blue River. Over the next few years a handful of other people in their group passed away and they were also buried along the river bank. In 1868 Vaclav Jelinek, desiring that his father be laid to rest in a more defined burial area, helped to instigate the founding of a Czech cemetery near the soon to develop town of Crete. A cemetery association formed out of a Bohemian Reading Society established by Joseph Jindra and they purchased forty acres from Jelinek on which to site a cemetery. The cemetery was called Jindra Cemetery due to its close proximity to Joseph Jindra's homestead. Shortly thereafter, non-Czech settlers living in the vicinity of Crete convinced the cemetery association to open up burials to all, regardless of ethnicity, because at the time no other cemetery existed nearby.⁶⁸



Figure 64: Blue Valley Cemetery, Ledger stones and headstones (SA00-143)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

The Jindra Cemetery later changed names twice, first to Maple Grove, and then to Blue Valley. The Blue Valley Cemetery is sited atop a hill south of the city of Crete. A winding dirt drive leads up from the cemetery entry, which is located off County Road 2350. The entry is marked by two stout brick pillars topped by stone. Flanking the pillars is a modern iron fence. South of the entry is a modern wood sign stating the name of the cemetery. Trees and shrubs are scattered throughout the crest of the hill, where the gravestones are located. Approximately 180 people are interred at Blue Valley Cemetery. The majority of the tombstones are upright headstones, mini-headstones, and obelisks. At least

⁶⁶ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 431-442; Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 160-161.

⁶⁷ Vladimír Kučera, editor, *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Kučera, 1972), 1.

⁶⁸ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 431-432.



Figure 66: Bohemian-Slavonian Cemetery (SA00-151)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

four ledger markers are present, including one with a headstone and footstone. A small number of the Czech-related tombstones have epitaphs written in the Czech language. All tombstones appear to be of stone.

Except for the names on some tombstones, little is present at this cemetery to indicate its historical ties to Czech immigration in Saline County.

In the 1868, the **Bohemian National Cemetery**, or Česko Národní Hřbitov, (SA00-144) was also founded after some members of the Czech Reading Society disapproved of the fact that the Blue Valley Cemetery (SA00-143) would not be limited to just Czech burials.

They proceeded to found a separate Czech-only

cemetery on three acres purchased from Joseph Kopecký (Kopetzky) halfway between Crete and Wilber off Country Road 2200 on which to establish a separate, Czech-only cemetery. Today, this cemetery is also known as the Big Blue Cemetery.⁶⁹ An ornamental wire fence surrounds the cemetery at its perimeter while decorative metal gates mark the two entries, one for pedestrians and one for vehicles, located at the center on the west side. The Czech name of the cemetery, Česko Národní Hřbitov, and a date, 1879 – possibly indicating the cemetery's official organization – are spelled out on an ornamented name plate spanning the width of the vehicular entry. A dirt drive extends into the cemetery from the vehicular entry. Trees flank the drive and are found scattered throughout the cemetery amongst the gravestones. Within the cemetery north of the entries, there is a small rectangular board and batten front gable building. South of the entries, there is a flag pole.

Over 500 people are interred at the Bohemian National Cemetery. Grave stones are a mix of upright headstones, mini-headstones, obelisks, small lawn-level markers, and ledger markers with either Czech or English epitaphs.

Visible Czech features that remain include the cemetery name, the tombstone epitaphs that contain Czech names and sometimes the Czech language, and the extensive landscaping.

The **Bohemian-Slavonian Cemetery** (SA00-151), also known as the Česko Slovanský Cemetery, is located approximately one mile west of the town of Wilber on the north side of County Road P.⁷⁰ In 1874, a meeting was held in Wilber with the purpose of founding a Czech cemetery. The group purchased forty acres of land from Joseph Korbes, of which ten acres in the southwest corner was set aside for burial purposes. Around this



Figure 65: Bohemian National Cemetery (SA00-144)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

⁶⁹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 431-432; Kučera, *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, 9-10.

⁷⁰ Robert Stehlík, "The Bohemian Slavonian Cemetery in Wilber" in *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, Vladimír Kučera, editor, 69-71.

same time, the Česko Slovanský hřbitovní spolek (Bohemian Slavonian Cemetery Association) formed to oversee development and maintenance of the cemetery. In 1888, some members of the cemetery association tried to have a portion of the cemetery separated and limited to Catholic burials but Frank Sadilek, a prominent local politician, and others prevented this from happening, thereby ensuring that the cemetery remained non-denominational.⁷¹

The perimeter of the cemetery is surrounded by an ornamented metal fence, which was installed in 1919.⁷² An entrance gate is located at the center of the south end. A metal filigree name plate that once attached to the gate was removed at an unknown date. Trees flank a road leading straight north from the entry, creating an avenue or allée. Additional trees and plantings are found throughout the remainder of the cemetery and along the fence. Vladimír Kučera explains that the extensive plantings and overall arrangement of this particular cemetery makes it "an almost perfect replica of the cemeteries in the old country, which are really beautiful gardens."⁷³

Over 5,000 people are buried at the cemetery. Gravestones are a mix of upright headstones, mini-headstones, obelisks, small lawn-level markers, and ledger markers with either Czech or English epitaphs.

Czech features present here include the cemetery name, the tombstone epitaphs, and the extensive landscaping.

Národní Hřbitov, or National Cemetery (SA00-055), is located on the west side of Highway 15 between County Roads N and O, in North Fork Township. It is also known as North Fork Cemetery.⁷⁴ The history of this cemetery and its founding is unknown. A low iron fence produced by the Cincinnati Iron Fence Company surrounds the cemetery. At the center of the east end, there is a single entry defined by an ornamented metal gate set atop brick and stone pillars. The Czech name for the cemetery, Národní Hřbitov, and the date of its establishment, 1883, are spelled out on a nameplate across the top of the gate. A central gravel drive runs through the cemetery from this gate. Near the center of the drive there is a water pump. At the west end there is a rectangular clapboard building with a hipped roof and north of this is a small rectangular clapboard storage shed with a



Figure 68: Národní Hřbitov (SA00-055)
(Source: APMA, 2015)



Figure 67: Example of a grave marker at Národní Hřbitov (SA00-055)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

⁷¹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 434-438; Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 160.

⁷² Stehlík, "The Bohemian Slavonian Cemetery in Wilber in *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, 71.

⁷³ Kučera, *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, 1.

⁷⁴ Donna Brandt, "Cemetery List," *Saline County NEGenWeb Project*, accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nesaline/cem/cemeterylist.htm>.



Figure 69: Tvrz Cemetery (SA00-147)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

side gable roof. The cemetery is devoid of landscaping and only two trees are present, at the northeast and southeast corners. Tree stumps at the west end of the cemetery indicate that more trees once stood within the cemetery's boundaries.

Approximately 400 people are interred at the cemetery, the majority of whom have Czech surnames and given names. The gravestones are a mix of upright headstones, obelisks, mini headstones, small lawn-level markers and ledger markers. Most of the tombstones are stone, although at least one iron cross

also exists. One of the stone tombstones is a Woodmen of the World grave marker in the shape of a tree trunk. The ledger markers are generally arranged in groups of two or more and many have headstones in addition to the full slab covering the graves. Most of the epitaphs are written in English while carvings with a folk appearance are rare.

Czech features visible at the cemetery include the cemetery name itself, the tombstone epitaphs, and the carvings present on some tombstones.

Tvrz Cemetery (SA00-147) is located on County Road J, east of County Road 100, in Turkey Creek Township. The cemetery was historically known by the name Česko Národní Hřbitov, or Bohemian National Cemetery.⁷⁵ It was established at the southwest corner of land owned by Frank (Franktišek) Tvrz.⁷⁶ The land on which the cemetery sits is located on a rise approximately five feet above the adjacent road. Surrounding the cemetery is a simple wood post and wire fence. A metal sign with decorative painted letters spelling out the cemetery name is affixed to the fence near the entry, which is located at the southwest corner. A number of trees are planted within the cemetery boundary but otherwise there is no landscaping.

Tvrz was buried here, as were members of his family. In total, eight people are buried here, but one grave is unmarked.⁷⁷ Of the seven tombstones present, the earliest of which dates to 1887 and the latest to 1908. Two are upright tombstones and five are obelisks. All are stone and feature decorative carvings and epitaphs written in Czech.

Czech features that distinguish the cemetery include the tombstone epitaphs and carvings and the cemetery's name.

Kasak Cemetery (SA00-174) is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of County Roads 100 and L, in Turkey Creek Township. The cemetery is named for Jan (John) Kasak, a Bohemian immigrant who moved to Fillmore County in 1871 and donated the land for the cemetery, which is situated just east of the Fillmore County line.⁷⁸ The cemetery was never formally organized and was utilized as a cemetery from 1888 to 1905, after which time it was abandoned. The cemetery's

⁷⁵ F.T. Tesař, "Abandoned Cemeteries," in *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, Vladimír Kučera, editor, 77-78.

⁷⁶ Northwest Publishing Co., *Platbook of Saline County, Nebraska*, 1900, accessed May 15, 2015, <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/9361/Saline+County+1900/>.

⁷⁷ Tesař, "Abandoned Cemeteries," in *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, 77-78.

⁷⁸ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 115-123; Northwest Publishing Co., *Platbook of Saline County, Nebraska*, 1900.



Figure 70: Kasak Cemetery (SA00-174)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

founding was linked to a disagreement between the Catholics and Protestants. At one point, the cemetery contained wooden markers and trees but neither of these are present currently. Today the cemetery is surrounded by a modern chain link fence and contains no landscaping within its boundaries. A simple modern metal sign with the cemetery's name is affixed to a metal pole and placed at the south end of the site. The cemetery no longer retains tombstones and instead graves are marked by crosses made out of pipe and spray painted white.⁷⁹

Except for the name, the cemetery is devoid of Czech features.

As is indicated above, the six Czech-related cemeteries present in Saline County vary in terms of size and appearance. Common physical features that can be identified as definitively Czech do not abound to tie these cemeteries together. Rather, it is their names, the epitaphs found on the gravestones of many buried within their boundaries, and the extensive landscaping at two of the cemeteries that indicates their ties to Saline County's Czech heritage.

ASSOCIATIONS

Czech immigrants to America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had a strong tradition of organizing themselves into groups dedicated to fraternity, benevolence, athletics, community, education and entertainment. These groups allowed Czechs to pursue common interests amongst people who spoke the same language and understood where they came from. Bruce M. Garver characterizes these associations into "five basic types: educational and cultural societies, the Sokol organization, fraternal and benevolent orders, cemetery associations, and finally, the Free Congregations (Svobodné obce)."⁸⁰ All of these were secular in nature and linked to the freethought movement, rather than to any organized religion. The first four were generally open to anyone of Czech heritage and espoused tolerance while the latter was militant in its outlook and joined by only the strident atheists and agnostics.⁸¹ The first three types will be discussed in more detail below.

As with many pioneer organizations, the associations founded by Czechs tended to first meet in existing buildings or, in the case of the Sokol units, out of doors where gymnastics training and other activities were undertaken. Log houses on the property of local Czech farmers served as meeting space and the site of at least one theatrical performance for two early Czech associations.⁸² In some instances, the growth in membership and the acquirement of significant funds led organizations to construct their own hall, or share a hall with a similarly aligned group. Bruce Garver notes that is was typical for various Czech associations to share a building, for example a Czech fraternal hall might also be used as a meeting place for a Sokol, Free School or cemetery association.⁸³ An additional feature of Czech halls was that, rather than being located on the second story of a

⁷⁹ Tesař, "Abandoned Cemeteries," in *Czech Cemeteries in Nebraska*, 78-79.

⁸⁰ Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 155.

⁸¹ Ibid. No evidence of Free Congregations were uncovered in Saline County.

⁸² Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97, 347-350.

⁸³ Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 158.

commercial building, as was common for American opera houses and fraternal orders, the Czechs made a conscious effort to construct “stand alone” buildings that were easily accessible and capable of accommodating the variety of activities held within.⁸⁴

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES

Czech educational and cultural groups that formed in many Nebraska towns included reading societies, educational groups, theatre and singing groups, and bands. Education and music were both important to Czechs. Nebraska’s Czechs, and their counterparts throughout the United States, arrived boasting a good education, with over 90% of Czech immigrants to America classified as literate.⁸⁵

The Bohemian Reading Society, founded in 1867 and officially organized in June 1869, was the oldest organization of Bohemians in Saline County, and the state.⁸⁶ The group met in a log cabin on John B. Svoboda’s farm near Crete. According to Rose Rosicky, this group later evolved into a Sokol club and then into a lodge of the Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society.⁸⁷

The first Czech language school in Nebraska was founded in 1873 in Saline County. Classes were taught by Joseph Jindra in a log schoolhouse on Joseph Jelinek’s farm near Crete. For a time, English was also taught here. This school remained in existence for at least three years. By 1913, Czech language classes were taught in Crete in a school sponsored by a lodge of the Western Bohemian Fraternal Association. In 1936, a new, or possibly revived, Czech language school formed in Crete that was supported by the local fraternal benevolent lodges and met in the basement of the Sokol Hall.⁸⁸ Wilber received a language school in 1878, the location of which is unknown. This school was no longer active by the 1920s.⁸⁹

The high value Czech immigrants within the region placed upon education was also reflected in the formation of Komensky Clubs. Founded in 1904 by a professor at the University of Iowa and a student at University of Nebraska Lincoln, the Komensky Club was named after Jan Amos Komensky, a pioneer Czech educator. The purpose of the Komensky Clubs was to form a social bond amongst members as well as to study and advocate for the Czech language, history and literature. By the end of World War I, twenty-eight Komensky Clubs existed throughout the United States, including one in Crete.⁹⁰ Swanton and Wilber also had Komensky Clubs.⁹¹ The Swanton Centennial booklet explains that Swanton’s club was formed by Bessie Fitl in the early 1900s. In addition to meetings, the group sponsored dances, debates and plays.⁹² The location where the Komensky Clubs in Crete, Wilber and Swanton met is unknown and none are active today. A Komensky Club does remain active at the

⁸⁴ David Murphy, “Dramatic Expressions: Czech Theatre Curtains in Nebraska,” *Nebraska History* 74 (Fall-Winter 1993): 168, 172, accessed May 15, 2015, http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/Czech_08_Curtains.pdf.

⁸⁵ Svoboda, “Czech-Americans: The Love of Liberty,” 157-158.

⁸⁶ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 347-351.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Vladimír Kučera, *Czech Dramas in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Kučera, 1979), 28, accessed May 20, 2015, <http://www.unl.edu/czechheritage/Vladimir%20Kucera%20Writings/CzDramaOPRAVENO.pdf>.

⁸⁹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 412-417.

⁹⁰ Ibid., 429-430; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, “Czech Komensky Club,” accessed April 6, 2015, <http://www.unl.edu/komenskyclub/>.

⁹¹ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984 Centennial Commemorative Album*, 32; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, “The Komensky Club 1909,” *Nebraska U*, accessed May 18, 2015, <http://unlhistory.unl.edu/items/show/317>.

⁹² *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984 Centennial Commemorative Album*, 32.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, however, hosting a variety of events throughout the year that highlight the history and culture of Czech people.⁹³

Music and theatre were also important parts of Czech culture and Czech immigrants brought their love of music and dramatic expression with them when they immigrated. Most Nebraska Czech communities had their own band or orchestra. Saline County was particularly noteworthy in Nebraska for the number and reputation of its Czech musicians and bands.⁹⁴ The county had two of the oldest Czech musical organizations west of Omaha, a Bohemian orchestra based in Crete and a band based in Wilber that played at farm dances and other celebratory events.⁹⁵ Czech bands in Wilber also performed at the Wilber Opera House, no longer extant, which was owned by Czech immigrant Thomas Pasek for a number of years.⁹⁶ Pasek was said to be the oldest bandmaster west of the Mississippi River and he oversaw a number of bands in the area, including Wilber's first youth band, the first girls' orchestra and a military band.⁹⁷

The first theatrical performance in Saline County, and one of the earliest put on by Czechs in the state, took place in 1869 at the log cabin on John Svoboda's property where the Bohemian Reading Society met. The Reading Society sponsored the play, which was entitled "Rekrutyřka v Kocourkově" (Recruiting Soldiers In Kocourkov), and erected a makeshift stage and curtain for this purpose. In the following years, Czech dramatic clubs sprouted up in Crete, Wilber, Swanton and possibly elsewhere in Saline County. These were often sponsored by fraternal benevolent groups like the local Západní Česko-Bratrská Jednota (ZČBJ, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) lodge or Sokol society, or a local Czech congregation. The actors were typically untrained, but often talented, locals of all ages while the theatre directors might either be untrained or seasoned professionals. Performances were held at Czech halls, where they existed and contained a stage, or at fraternal halls associated with non-Czech groups or the town opera house. The Czech theatrical groups that formed would not just perform locally, but would often travel to nearby communities where they would entertain audiences with dramas, operettas, and comedies. After the performances it was customary for a public dance to occur, with music provided by a Czech band.⁹⁸

The plays performed in Saline County ranged from being Czech classics to wholly original productions with a local flavor. An example of the latter was a three part play performed in Wilber in 1931 called *Ukradený kontysic* (A Stolen County Seat). Written by a former Czech-American resident of Saline County, the play depicted the moving of the Saline County seat from Pleasant Hill to Wilber in 1878.⁹⁹

The first Czech drama in Wilber took place in 1877 at a wooden hall owned by Matej Hokuf and called Hokuf Hall, which is no longer standing. Beginning in the 1870s, Josef Schuessler, the oldest Czech-American actor, was the theatre director here and he would remain in this capacity for 27 years. In 1893, Wilber's first talent club, Tyl, was established. Wilber's fraternal benevolent organizations, as

⁹³ University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "Czech Komensky Club."

⁹⁴ Vladimír Kučera and DeLores Kučera, editors, *Czech Music in Nebraska* (Lincoln, NE: Kucera, 1980), 34, accessed May 15, 2015, http://www.unl.edu/czechheritage/Czech_music_in_Nebraska.pdf.

⁹⁵ Ibid., 34-52; Hrbkova, "Bohemians in Nebraska," 149-150.

⁹⁶ Kučera and DeLores, *Czech Music in Nebraska*, 36-38; Verne Anthony, conversation with Caitlin Kolb, May 18, 2015.

⁹⁷ Kučera and DeLores, *Czech Music in Nebraska*, 36-38.

⁹⁸ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97, 347-350; Kučera, *Czech Dramas in Nebraska*, 21-123; David Murphy, "Dramatic Expressions: Czech Theatre Curtains in Nebraska," 168-171.

⁹⁹ Kučera, *Czech Dramas in Nebraska*, 111-112.

well as St. Wenceslaus Parish put on many of the Czech plays in this town. Performances occurred at the Wilber Opera House and in later years at the Sokol Pavilion. In Crete, Czech plays were held at Band's Opera House, no longer extant, before the new Sokol hall was built in 1915. A Czech Dramatic Club formed here in the 1930s, although it is likely that others existed before this. In Swanton, a dramatic club formed as early as 1918. Czech plays were performed at the Tabor Lodge Hall at Pleasant Hill, no longer extant, and the Woodmen of the World (W.O.W.) Hall in Swanton, which appears to no longer be extant. Saline County's once active Czech theatrical culture began to wane in the early 1940s. In 1962, Czech dramatic activity in Saline County was revived, albeit on a much smaller scale, with the inclusion of the "Pageant of the Czech People" on the program for the annual Wilber Czech Days Festival.¹⁰⁰

SOKOL ORGANIZATIONS

The Sokol organizations were notable as the only association promulgated throughout the United States that had direct ties to an identical institution in the homeland. The Sokol originated in Bohemia in 1862 to celebrate a common Czech heritage and with the mission to activate Czech bodies as well as minds.¹⁰¹ While gymnastics and sports were important components of these societies, they also invigorated the minds and spirits of the Czech people with language classes, festivals, theatrical performances, dances and picnics.¹⁰² Where present, the Sokol Hall was often the primary community gathering spot for Czech immigrants and their children.

The first Sokol society in Nebraska was established at Crete in Saline County in 1875. It was the first of its kind west of the Missouri River. As noted above, it grew out of the Bohemian Reading Society founded in 1867. John K. Mallat, a Czech immigrant who had received extensive gymnastics training while living in his homeland, was the founder. At first membership at this and all Sokol units was restricted to males. As a result three female Sokol organizations sprang up in Nebraska, including one in Crete.¹⁰³ There were also a number of Catholic Sokol Unions, although none in Saline County.

By the late 1920s, there were thirteen secular Sokol organizations throughout Nebraska, including three in Saline County: one in Crete, one in Wilber, and one in Brush Creek Precinct.¹⁰⁴ All of three of these Sokol societies constructed halls in which to house their activities that remain extant today.

¹⁰⁰ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97, 347-350; Kučera, *Czech Dramas in Nebraska*, 21-123; David Murphy, "Dramatic Expressions: Czech Theatre Curtains in Nebraska," 168-171.

¹⁰¹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 352-355.

¹⁰² Svoboda, "Czech-Americans: The Love of Liberty," 170.

¹⁰³ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 352-355; Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 157.

¹⁰⁴ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 352-355.



Figure 71: Brush Creek Hall (SA00-010)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

The oldest building constructed specifically as a Sokol Hall in Saline County is Brush Creek Hall, also known as **Tělocvičná Jednota Sokol** (SA00-010). This is the oldest known Sokol Hall in Nebraska. Located in a rural area near Wilber, this one-and-a-half story frame building was constructed in approximately 1889. The front gabled building has a rectangular footprint and rests upon a rubble stone foundation. Centered on one of the gable ends is a double door entry topped by a simple pediment, the only real ornamentation on the otherwise subdued exterior. A sign with the Sokol logo once hung above the door. A small lean-to addition with a shed roof was added a few years after the original building was constructed. The Sokol group that

constructed the building had formed in 1887 and for their first two years did their gymnastics training in a schoolhouse, and then a corn crib. By the 1920s this Sokol boasted 60 members. Numbers dwindled thereafter but the hall was still actively used for organization meetings, dances, 4-H and Extension Club meetings and even as an election hall into the mid-1980s. By that point, gymnastics training no longer occurred in the building. Today the building sits empty.¹⁰⁵

After its official organization in 1884, Crete's Sokol organization utilized a series of rented buildings in the city's downtown where many of the athletic activities took place outside. They built their first hall in 1891 on a lot at the corner of 12th and Quince, four blocks west of downtown. The hall was used for gymnastics, as well as by groups like the Sokol Ladies Lodge. It was also rented out to non-Czech groups, including the Crete High School for basketball practice and games, and the YMCA for meetings. On February 7, 1912 the building burned to the ground. Many important records were lost at this time.



Figure 72: Crete Sokol (SA01-076)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

The **Crete Sokol** (SA01-076) decided to rebuild closer to the center of town, at 12th and Norman. Anton Daniel and Sons, a family of architects and builders who hailed from Moravia, designed and constructed the building, known as the Tělocvičná Jednota (T.J.) Sokol Hall. The building was dedicated on September 29, 1915.¹⁰⁶ Two Czech fraternal lodge groups, the men's ZČBJ Lodge No. 3 and the women's ZČBJ Lodge, Karolina Svetla No. 96, helped to fund the construction of the building and after its completion held their meetings in the basement.¹⁰⁷ The large brick building has a rectangular footprint, a raised basement and a second story balcony overlooking the main floor's gymnasium. The building is simply ornamented with Renaissance Revival influences

¹⁰⁵ National Register of Historic Places, Telocvicna Jednota Sokol, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 85000110.

¹⁰⁶ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 126-128; National Register of Historic Places, Tělocvičná Jednota T.J. Sokol Hall, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 03001214.

¹⁰⁷ Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 131-133.



Figure 73: Wilber Sokol Pavilion (SA09-065)

(Source: APMA, 2015)

Wilber's Sokol group was founded in 1880. For its first few years, the **Wilber Sokol** held gymnastics classes and other events at the Wilber Opera House. In 1891, they purchased lots nearby and built their own hall. During World War I, the group decided to show their patriotic support for their new county by selling the hall, donating the proceeds to the war effort, and thereafter disbanding. The group did not form again until 1925. Lacking money for an actual building, they constructed an open air platform to host gymnastic practices and dances on the southern edge of downtown. A year later this was enclosed and in 1930 Západní Česko-Bratrská Jednota (ZČBJ, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) group bought adjacent land to improve and enlarge the enclosed platform. In 1947, additional improvements were made and a brick façade was added to the front of the building, giving it the appearance it retains today.¹⁰⁸

The resulting Sokol Pavilion (SA09-065) in Wilber is a sizable one-story, light colored brick building with a streamlined Art Moderne appearance. An arched parapet spans the width of the front façade. This parapet resembles and brick piers divide the five bays. Within the bays are large glass block window openings. The central opening has curved block walls that flow into the double door entry. Above this entry is a sleek, thin metal awning. Topping this is a blue and red neon sign. An additional entry, which appears to have been added later at an unknown date, is located at the north end of the front façade.

All three Sokol halls reflect their use in their form, each with a large open interior space to accommodate a variety of activities. Their Czech lineage is most obviously indicated by their names, which remains visible via signage above the entries of the Sokols in Crete and Wilber. However, none of these buildings definitively embody Czech characteristics in their outward appearance. The halls in Crete and Wilber follow popular architectural styles of the day while that in Brush Creek has a simple form and appearance and lacks a defined architectural style.

FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT ORDERS

Fraternal and benevolent associations were widespread amongst Czech immigrants. These organizations typically provided members with mutual life and health insurance benefits. They provided a community benefit as well, frequently opening up their halls or rented spaces for social activities, ranging from gymnastics to theatrical productions.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸National Register of Historic Places, Tělocvičná Jednota T.J. Sokol Hall, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska.

¹⁰⁹Kaura, *Saline County, Nebraska: History Beginning in 1858*, 128-129; National Register of Historic Places, Sokol Pavilion, Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 98000892.

¹¹⁰Hrbkova, "Bohemians in Nebraska," 147.

The oldest of these in the United States was **Česko-Slovanský Podporující Spolek** (ČSPS, Bohemian Slavonian Benevolent Society). ČSPS was founded in St. Louis in March 1854. In the late nineteenth century, Wilber and Crete both had ČSPS lodges. In Wilber, Lodge Svojan No. 29 was established in 1878. In the early 1880s, the group was meeting bimonthly at the Free Masons' Hall. In Crete, Lodge No. 32 was founded on January 1, 1879. As with the lodge in Wilber, in the early 1880s the Crete group had no hall of its own and instead held meetings at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows hall. The popularity of ČSPS lodges began to diminish by the 1890s, due to such policies as charging all members the same premium regardless of age; only allowing women to join if their husbands were already members, and giving those women less benefits than the men; and espousing an anticlerical outlook. By the late 1920s, the 11 active Č.S.P.S. lodges had 400 members. The Crete ČSPS lodge was no longer active but the Wilber lodge was. It is unknown where the Wilber lodge met at this time.¹¹¹

The **Západní Česko-Bratrská Jednota** (ZČBJ, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association) attracted many of those put off by the Č.S.P.S.'s policies. The ZČBJ, which was founded in Omaha in 1897, adjusted life insurance premiums according to a member's age, allowed women and men to join on equal terms and had no stance on religious issues. The group's popularity quickly spread throughout Nebraska and by the late 1920s there were 75 lodges with 7,095 members. About one third of the members were women. Saline County had eleven ZČBJ lodges by the late 1920, the greatest number outside of Omaha: two in Crete, one near Dorchester, one near Friend, one in Swanton, one in Tobias, two in Western, and three in or near Wilber.¹¹²

The two ZČBJ lodges in Crete met at the local Sokol Hall (SA01-176) after its construction in 1915. The lodge near Dorchester met at the Tabor Hall (SA00-011). The lodge near Friend met in its own rural building until moving into the newly constructed Saline Center (SA00-043) in 1939. The lodge in Swanton met in the local Woodmen of the World hall from 1902 to 1948 and then moved into the former city hall, which it utilized until 1982. The lodge in Tobias met in its own hall from 1905 to 1954 and then in a downtown office building from 1958 to 1984, with a pavilion built on the south side of town in the 1950s (SA07-033). The meeting location for the lodges in Western is unknown. Two lodges near Wilber met in their own rural lodge building until moving into the newly constructed Saline Center (SA00-043) in 1939 while that in Wilber likely met at the Sokol Pavilion (SA00-065) after its construction in the 1920s.¹¹³

Around the turn of the twentieth century, women's only organizations also sprang up as an alternative to the ČSPS lodges. The Union of Bohemian Women, in Czech **Jednota Ceskyh Dam** (JCD), was the first and largest women's freethought benevolent order. The group was established in Chicago in 1870 and the first lodge in Nebraska sprang up at Wilber in September 1885. By the late 1920s, there were 1,455 members and 14 lodges, including two in Wilber and one in Crete. The location in Wilber and Crete where these lodges held their meetings is not known. A smaller women's

¹¹¹ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 356; Andreas, "Saline County," in *History of the State of Nebraska*.

¹¹² Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 356-359; Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 159.

¹¹³ See individual hall descriptions under the headings "Sokol Organizations" and Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations" for further information and specific citations.



Figure 74: ZČBJ Quonset Hut in Tobias (SA07-033)
(Source: APMA, 2015)



Figure 75: Rad Tabor 74 (SA00-011)
(Source: APMA, 2015)

society was the **Sesterska Podporující Jednota** (SPJ, Sisterhood Benevolent Union). This women's freethought benevolent order was founded in Cleveland in 1890 and had little presence west of Chicago, except for two lodges in Omaha and one in Wilber. By the late 1920s, the group had 329 members.¹¹⁴ The location where the Wilber lodge met is not known.

As the numbers above indicate, Saline County boasted at least seventeen Czech benevolent and fraternal lodges by the late 1920s. Three buildings remain extant today that were utilized by some of these groups.

A.V. Koubou organized a ZČBJ Lodge in Tobias in January 1900. The lodge, Krivoklat 79, began with 29 charter members. Meetings were held in a variety of locations before the lodge built its own building in 1905. The one-story clapboard building, no longer extant, had a front facing gable with a false front. A dance pavilion was added to the north of the hall in 1927 where Czechs in the area gathered for dances, plays, theatrical shows and athletic activities. In 1954, the group sold the pavilion to the local school district and their lodge building was demolished. A few years later, in 1958, lodge activities were transferred to a remodeled 1-story brick office building at 103 Main Street. Dances, plays and athletic activities were held in a Quonset hut (SA07-

033) on the south end of town. Sometime after 1984, with membership dwindling, Tobias's Krivoklat 79 merged with a ZČBJ Lodge in Milligan, Fillmore County and the one-story brick building was sold. The lodge retained ownership of the Quonset hut, which continues to be actively used by the town for various social and athletic events.¹¹⁵

In 1899, the ZČBJ Lodge, Rad Tabor 74, was organized in the now defunct community of Pleasant Hill. The group first met in the former Saline County courthouse at Pleasant Hill until a new hall was constructed in 1914 two miles east of Pleasant Hill and five miles south of Dorchester. The original building has a square footprint with a flat roof. A double door entry is centered on the south façade and a pedimented gable rises above the roof line. Visual interest was historically provided with simple Neo-Renaissance details in the window hoods, dentil molding and cornice. The window hoods and dentil molding were removed sometime after 1985 when the building was clad in vinyl. At an unknown date another addition doubled the length of the 1914 building. The Lodge's membership grew, necessitating an addition in 1934 that enlarged the building to the east with a dance pavilion. This addition is rectangular and has a hipped roof with entry doors on the north and south facades.

¹¹⁴ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 356-359; Garver, "Czech American Freethinkers on the Great Plains," 159.

¹¹⁵ Judy Rada, conversation with Caitlin Kolb; American Legion Auxillary, *Centennial History of Tobias, Nebraska*, 16.



Figure 76: Saline Center (SA00-043)
(APMA, 2015)

Along with traditional lodge activities, Rad Tabor 74 sponsored Czech language classes, hosted social events and for a period of time had a Sokol program. This Tabor attracted so many members that it was the largest in Nebraska until two Omaha lodges merged at an unknown date.¹¹⁶ All meetings were conducted in Czech until the mid-1970s when they switched to English.¹¹⁷

The ZČBJ lodge Saline Center Lodge Hall #389 (SA00-043) originated following the consolidation of four local lodges housed in three different halls. Lodge Mir No. 132 was organized in 1903. It built a hall in 1904, with an addition in 1907, one mile east of the Saline Center Hall.

Lodge Ladimir Klacel No. 92, a men's-only lodge, organized in 1900 west of Wilber. The Lodge built a new hall west of Wilber in 1910 after outgrowing their original building. Lodge Vlastensky No. 117, a women's-only lodge, was organized in 1901 and shared a hall with Lodge Ladimir Klacel No. 92. Lodge Kolumbus No. 113 organized in 1903 and had a hall near Friend. Each of these groups originally had their own lodge because of transportation constraints and a desire to retain their own identities.

The widespread use of the automobile and improved road networks by the 1930s, coupled with a desire to save money on expenses, led to a merger of the four lodges in 1938. Shortly thereafter the combined lodges acquired a site near the center of Saline County and christened their hall Saline Center. Construction began in 1939, with the lumber coming from the three former halls. Frank Dejml acted as contractor and labor was provided by lodge members and friends. The lodge officially opened on September 3, 1939.¹¹⁸ The large, one-story frame building has a rectangular footprint and a front gabled roof. A central entry with two sets of double doors topped by transoms is located on the south side of the building and windows penetrate all facades at the first story and partially raised basement level.

In Swanton a ZČBJ Lodge, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, called Lodge Vlastenec No. 120 was established on January 22, 1902. For its first forty-six years, the group met monthly in the village's Woodman of the World Hall. In 1948 they purchased village's City Hall on Main Street, which they utilized for their meetings until 1982. At that time, the hall was sold and the group began to meet in the new city hall. Between 1982 and 1984, the former hall was moved two and a half blocks north on Main Street to serve as a private garage for resident Tom Bass. It does not appear to be extant today.¹¹⁹

From the exterior, the three Czech fraternal halls extant in Saline County contain little indication of their Czech lineage. All three have a simple form and appearance and no defined architectural style. Only Saline Center (SA00-043) contains prominent signage indicating its use as a ZČBJ Lodge. Their

¹¹⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Z.C.B.J. Řád Tabor No. 74, Dorchester, Saline County, Nebraska. National Register # 85001798.

¹¹⁷ Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Centennial History Committee, *History of the Dorchester-Pleasant Hill Communities, Saline County, Nebraska: 1881-1981 Centennial Celebration*, Dorchester, NE: s.n., 1981, 33.

¹¹⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Řád Saline Center čis. 389 Z.Č.B.J. Western, Saline County, Nebraska, National Register # 95001483.

¹¹⁹ *Swanton, Nebraska – 1884-1984 Centennial Commemorative Album*, 32-33.

important ties to the county's Czech presence only becomes clear through an examination of their history.

POLITICS AND JOURNALISM

In addition to education, athletics, music, and general cultural gatherings, Czech immigrants took an active interest in politics and journalism. By 1919, 33 Czech-Americans had served in the state legislature. One of these influential Nebraska Czechs was Cenek Duras, a Republican who served as a Nebraska state senator in the 1880s. Duras made his home in Saline County and served two terms as the county treasurer.¹²⁰ While Czech immigrants were traditionally Democrats, in Nebraska an influential group of Czech Republicans arose in the late nineteenth century, due in large part to Czech native Edward Rosewater's establishment of a Czech weekly Republican newspaper in 1871, the *Omaha Bee*.¹²¹

Nebraska once had eight Czech language newspapers, three of which were published in Omaha. Many of these had local editions printed for cities such as Wilber and Crete.¹²² In places with a high density of Czech citizens, the local newspaper would often publish a page or two in the native tongue. For many years, the *Saline County Post*, which was based in Crete and later underwent a number of name changes until becoming the current *Crete News*, printed one page in Czech.¹²³ Cenek Duras was the editor of this Czech section.¹²⁴ A number of Czech weekly newspapers were published in Wilber during its early decades. Two of these, *Beseda (The Circle)* and *Noviny (News)*, halted publication after only one year. A third, *Wilberske Listy (Wilber News)*, merged with the Omaha-based *Delnické Listy (Labor News)* after one year. A fourth, *Přítel lidu (The People's Friend)*, a populist weekly, was published in Wilber from 1893 to 1915, at which time it was sold to the Chicago daily *Hlasatel*.¹²⁵

There were also four monthly Czech magazines in Nebraska by 1920. Two of these were agricultural journals, including the influential *Hospodář*, with a national circulation, one was an educational magazine published by the Komensky society, and the other was called *Život (Life)*, a Methodist monthly published in Crete by a local Czech pastor.¹²⁶ In 1918, *Život's* publisher moved the monthly to Oklahoma City.¹²⁷ These Czech language publications helped to bind those with Czech heritage together through a shared language and a mutual interest in cultural and social happenings. Their decline after 1920 reflected broader changes occurring in many ethnic groups in the post-World War I period.

It is unknown where officially organized Czech political groups may have met within Saline County. Additionally, office and printing locations for the Wilber newspapers and the Crete monthly *Život* are unknown. The *Saline County Post*, now the *Crete News*, originally had its offices in the basement of the Band Opera House, no longer extant. From 1929 to 1964 the newspaper utilized the building at

¹²⁰ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 70-97.

¹²¹ Hrbkova, "Bohemians in Nebraska," 150-153.

¹²² Ibid., 154; Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 383-385.

¹²³ Rosicky, *A History of Czechs (Bohemians) in Nebraska*, 383-385.

¹²⁴ Vladimír Kučera and Alfred Novacek, editors, *Czech Contributions to the Progress of Nebraska* (Lincoln, Nebraska: Kučera and Novacek, 1976), 113, accessed April 6, 2015. <http://www.unl.edu/czechheritage/contributions>.

¹²⁵ Ibid., 113-114.

¹²⁶ Hrbkova, "Bohemians in Nebraska," 154-155.

¹²⁷ Kučera and Novacek, *Czech Contributions to the Progress of Nebraska*, 116.

136 East 14th Street but it is not known whether the Czech language section was still part of the newspaper at this time.¹²⁸As a result, no known commercial buildings associated with the political and journalistic endeavors of Saline County's Czechs appear to remain extant in the county.

¹²⁸ Jefferies, *Images of America: Crete*, 19.

CHAPTER 3: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project was to complete a detailed Reconnaissance Level survey and resurvey of Saline County. This survey verified the location of previously surveyed properties and reevaluated their level of integrity. It also identified additional historic, architectural and landscape resources within the county that met the Nebraska Historic Resource and Survey Inventory (NeHRSI) standards. Each of the previously surveyed and newly surveyed properties were then evaluated for their potential eligibility for listing individually, as contributing to an historic district or as a resource to be included within a multiple property listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

SURVEY AREA

Saline County is located in the second tier of counties north of the Kansas border and approximately four counties west of the Iowa border. It creates a square 24 miles across, for a total area of 576 square miles. According to the 2010 U.S. Census Records, Saline County has a population of 14,200, living in 5,607 buildings. Of the residents, 38% are of German heritage and 24% are of Czech heritage.

Previous surveys had collected information on 1,064 properties in the survey area. All of these properties were resurveyed as a part of this project. Included in this count are seventeen properties and two historic districts which are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH AND FIELD WORK

In order to develop an awareness of potentially significant resources (buildings, structures, sites and objects) in the survey area and understand the unique aspects of the history of Saline County and the associated Czech history which influenced its development, research was begun prior to the commencement of field work. This included a review of site files, inventory cards and nomination forms from the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, as well as visiting and collecting information from local and state repositories, including the Love Library and Architecture Library at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, the Nebraska State Historical Society Library and Archives, Saline County Historical Society and the Beatrice Public Library. A detailed bibliography of potential sources of information was completed at this time and a draft of the historic overview was completed at this time.

Field work was completed in January and February 2015. In the field, teams of investigators traveled each public road in Saline County to ensure a complete survey. By traveling each roadway with inventory cards and maps of previously surveyed properties in hand the teams were able to locate most previously inventoried properties which did not have a clear address, or to verify that they were non-extant.

Investigators identified and inventoried resources that met the following criteria:

- A minimum of 40 years old
- Retained their physical integrity
- Situated in their original location

Although the National Register sets 50 years as a minimum age for nominated resources, this survey utilized 40 years as a minimum age criteria for two reasons. First, this allows the survey to remain valid for several years into the future. Given the number of years between surveys, the data needs to remain viable as long as reasonably possible. Secondly, since age is often estimated in the field, this provides leeway for those resources on the edge of the survey timeline, allowing for erring on the side of inclusion rather than exclusion.

A high level of physical integrity gives a resource authenticity by presenting its physical characteristics during its period of historic significance. According to the National Park Service, physical integrity is comprised of seven aspects; location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. They are defined as follows:

- Location is the place where the historic resource was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
- Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a resource.
- Setting is the physical environment of an historic resource.
- Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic resource.
- Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
- Feeling is a resource's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
- Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic resource.

Integrity is affected by changes to the original materials and features, such as the installation of modern siding materials like vinyl siding, or the replacement of original wood windows with modern aluminum windows. In some cases however, changes to a resource have been in place long enough to have gained historic significance. For example, asbestos siding was frequently installed between 1930 and 1970 and in many cases has been in place long enough to be considered historically significant.

Standards of integrity were applied most rigorously to residential buildings due to the number of extant examples available for survey. Likewise, younger resources were held to a higher standard. On commercial properties, alterations to the first floor were expected and buildings were not discounted if the alterations were minor or had gained historic significance over time. Secondary buildings such as garages and sheds were surveyed only when they added to the historic feeling and association of the primary building. Abandoned resources were included when they dated from the 1800s, represented a unique property type or possessed construction materials indigenous to the area.

Resources such as farmsteads with multiple buildings, structures and objects were surveyed as a single entity in which the primary buildings, structures or objects were required to meet the evaluation criteria listed above. Farmsteads without residences were only surveyed when they clearly retained all other elements of the building site. Additionally, barns that were excellent examples of a particular type were surveyed individually.

BIASES

All survey work and research contains certain biases due to the nature of the work. By identifying these biases it is easier to understand how the project progressed and how future projects might avoid such biases.

Because a reconnaissance level survey is primarily based on visual observation of the resources from the public right-of-way, those resources obscured by foliage or other obstructions generally could not be surveyed. Furthermore, the visual nature of a reconnaissance level survey gives greater weight to those resources which are architecturally significant or which have a clear and obvious historic significance, such as a city hall or school. Those resources with low physical integrity but high historic significance were included when previously noted, brought to the attention of the survey team by interested public parties, or where uncovered during research for the historic context of this survey.

INVENTORY NUMBERING SYSTEM

Resources within the survey area that met these standards were entered into a database for future reference. Once within the database, surveyed resources were each assigned a unique inventory number.

In Saline County, the inventory number is composed of two sets of digits (xxxx-zzz). The first set begins with an abbreviation for the county (SA) and a two-digit number which represents the location of the resource (xx); 00 for rural properties, 01 for Crete, 02 for DeWitt, 03 for Dorchester, 04 for Friend, 05 for Pleasant Hill, 06 for Swanton, 07 for Tobias, 08 for Western and 09 for Wilber. The second set of numbers is a unique three digit number for each resource. For example, the NeHRSI inventory number for the Frank Pizar Farmstead is SA00-003. Within this report, inventory numbers are supplied with the name or address of each resource discussed within the text.

POST FIELD ACTIVITY

After fieldwork, each previously surveyed and each newly active resource was catalogued in an excel database. Database entries for previously surveyed resources were updated to meet today's NeHBS standards, including correcting and adding addresses where now available and noting changes to the resource's integrity. Hard copy survey cards for each resource were updated at this time with the same information. Database entries for newly active resources included basic location information, architectural features and characteristics as well as identifying information. Latitudes and longitudes were also identified for each property to assist in future location of the resource as addresses change.

A minimum of two color digital photos were taken of each resource in the field. After field work, photos were downloaded and renamed with the newly assigned inventory numbers.

Finally the data was entered into the GIS system and the properties were mapped.

After the first draft of the database, photographs and maps were completed, the Principal Investigator and the Field Supervisor reviewed all of the collected information. Each database entry was verified and information was added for materials, historic contexts and property types. Photos were reviewed for clarity and their ability to illustrate the features of the resource. The maps were reviewed for accuracy and for density. A dense area might indicate a potential historic district.

ANALYSIS

Resources were then evaluated for their potential to be listed individually or as contributing to an historic district in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. Included in the list are buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts which are at least 50 years old, have sufficient integrity and which are significant under one of four criteria:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

According to the National Park Service, "ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a) A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life; or
- d) A cemetery that derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- f) A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- g) A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Resources in this survey were divided into four classifications according to their potential to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Resources were marked Inactive, Active, Eligible – Individually or as contributing to a Historic District, or Listed – Individually or as contributing to an Historic District.

- **Inactive** – Resources in this classification were generally previously surveyed properties that had lost significant integrity since their initial survey and would no longer meet the NeHBS criteria.
- **Active** – This represents the bulk of the resources surveyed. These resources were not clearly architecturally or historically significant, or within an area of enough density to be potentially eligible as an historic district. However they did meet the NeHBS criteria and could be listed if further research reveals a compelling statement of significance. Since this survey is biased towards those resources which can be visually identified as significant, if listed most buildings in this category would be listed under Criterion A as associated with broad patterns of history or B, associated with the life of a significant individual.
- **Eligible** – Individually or as contributing to a Historic District – These resources were clearly architecturally or historically significant, or within an area of enough density to be potentially eligible as an historic district.
- **Listed** – These resources were previously listed on the National Register either individually or as contributing to a Historic District.

END PRODUCTS

The color digital photographs and completed database were copied onto flash drives for delivery to the NeSHPO. Resources entered into the database were input into a GIS system. Shape files were then created highlighting resources that were inventoried and those that were considered eligible for the NRHP.

Finally, the results of this survey were compiled into this survey report. The report includes additional research undertaken during and after field work to further understand and describe the historic context of the survey area. An historic overview of the study area was developed, concentrating on areas of significance relevant to the broad history of Saline County and the settlement of those of Czech descent in the area. Highlighted within this study were local resources which were connected to each of the themes discussed. Additionally, the report contains an analysis of the survey findings, a discussion of the resources inventoried and recommendations and further information as outlined in the executive summary.

CHAPTER 4: RESOURCE ANALYSIS

RESULTS

The 2015 survey of Saline County documented **968** active resources, including 495 previously surveyed properties that remain active and 473 newly surveyed properties. Of the 495 previously surveyed active properties, 96 are listed on the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as part of a district. The documented resources are fairly evenly distributed across the survey area and encompass a wide variety of property types. See the accompanying maps for distribution. Following the maps is an illustrated discussion of historic contexts clarifying the property types and historic contexts represented by these resources. For a complete list of all resources inventoried as active in this survey, see the accompanying appendix.

Properties which were evaluated and marked as inactive within the inventory were generally dismissed for loss of integrity. The primary reason behind this loss was the installation of modern siding. New siding most often resulted in the loss of historic material and workmanship, which quite often leads to the loss of a resource's historic feeling as well. That means three of the seven components of integrity discussed in Chapter 3 were usually compromised by new siding.

Of those previously surveyed resources dismissed as non-extant, survey teams were unable to locate a small number due to vague address descriptions or inaccurate mapping on the previous survey. In each case, an effort was made to survey the surrounding area (several miles in each direction in rural areas and several blocks in each direction in towns) and locate the resource.

With-in the survey, the eligible downtown properties of Crete and Wilber were documented individually to assist in the evaluation of these two areas as potential historic districts.

Division	Rural	Crete	DeWitt	Dorchester	Friend	Pleasant Hill	Swanton	Tobias	Western	Wilber
Previously Surveyed	208	350	64	43	84	6	39	66	124	80
Active	97	173	30	16	36	2	19	25	66	31
Inactive	44	124	16	17	30		7	21	33	24
Non-Extant	67	53	18	10	18	4	13	20	25	25
Newly Surveyed	137	135	17	10	24	1	2	10	12	124

Figure 77: Saline County Survey Results by Division
Table by APMA 2015.

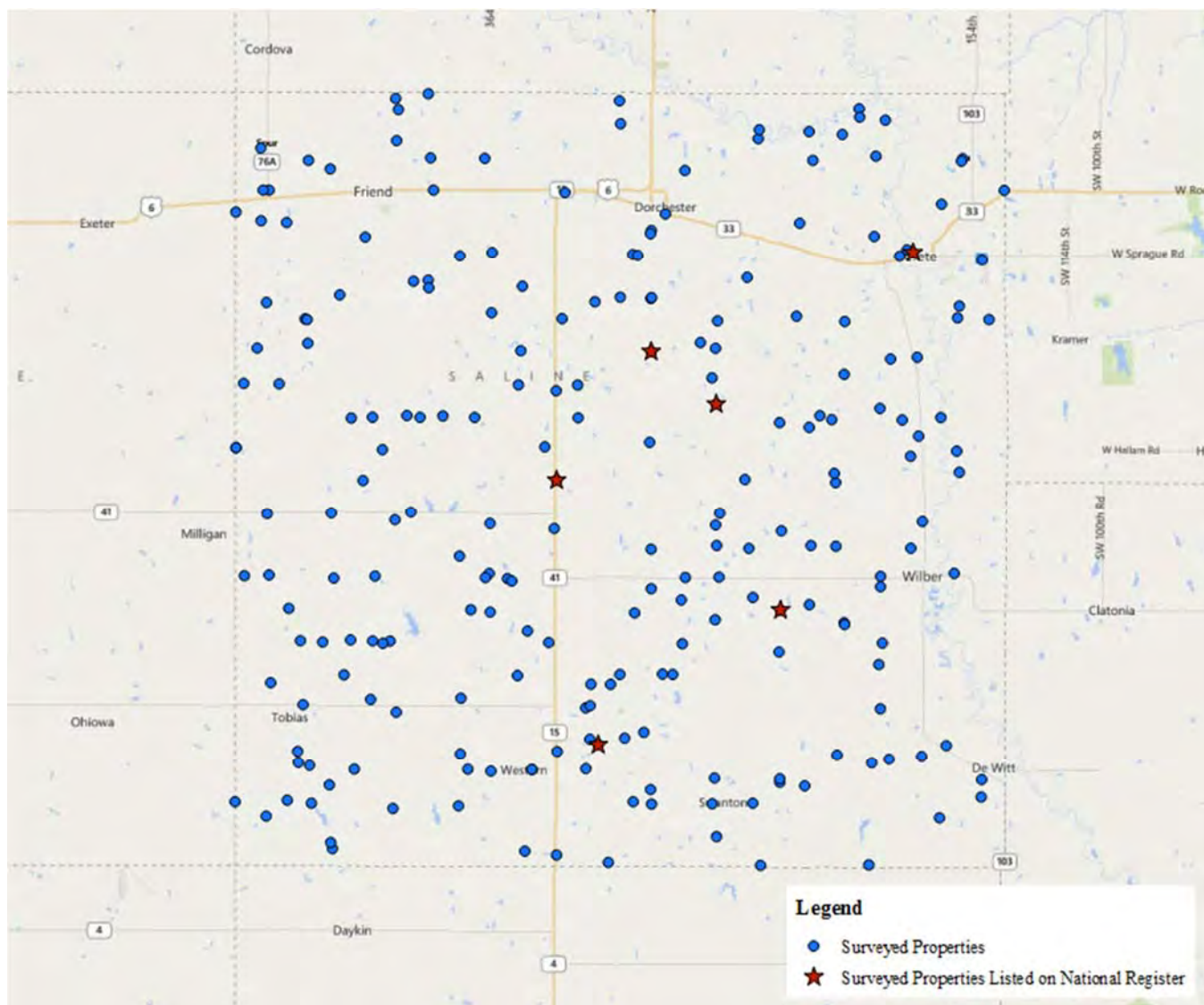


Figure 78: Saline County Survey Area Rural Results. Highlighted are active resources in the inventory. Not to Scale. Map by APMA 2015.

ANNOTATED DISCUSSION OF SURVEY ANALYSIS

Within the survey, resources were categorized by historic context and property type as outlined in the NeHRSI Manual. This framework provides a way to understand a particular resource when compared to others with a similar history and/or physical features. Contexts have an historical or cultural topic that has associations with a particular place at a particular time.

The following is a brief illustrated discussion of selected historic contexts as they apply to Saline County. A complete list of properties that may be eligible for listing on the NRHP under all sixteen contexts given further research is listed in Appendix A.

PROPERTIES PREVIOUSLY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Seventeen individual properties and two historic districts have been previously listed on the NRHP in Saline County. Following are summations of each nomination.

RURAL



Jesse C. Bickle House (The Maples)

[SA00-001] Listed 1977/11/23

The present two-story frame dwelling, completed in the 1870s, is a fine example of the Carpenter Gothic style. The house, located near Crete, incorporates an earlier one-story, two-room log structure built by Jesse Bickle about 1864. A founding father of Crete, Bickle was actively involved in the development of the county.



Frank Pisar Farmstead

[SA00-003] Listed 1986/08/06

Frantisek "Frank" Pisar was a native of Bohemia. In 1872 Pisar, his wife Terezie, and their children homesteaded this eighty-acre tract in Pleasant Hill Precinct. Pisar was an enterprising farmer and by 1885 he owned over 300 acres. He managed a nearly self-sufficient farming operation and built fruit cellars or caves for produce storage. The farm is located at the end of a small limestone vein, which supplied building material for the construction of the original one-and-one-half-story stone house (1877) and stone barn (1888). The property also includes a corncrib, hog house, poultry sheds, and privy.



Michael Witt Fachwerkbau

[SA00-007] Listed 1980/01/14

The fachwerkbau or "half-timbered" house was built in 1867-68 by Michael Witt, a native of Germany and one of the pioneer settlers near the present-day town of Friend. The dwelling is a relic of German folk architectural traditions and is the only known structure of its type in Nebraska.



Telocvicna Jednota Sokol (Brush Creek Hall)

[SA00-010] Listed 1985/01/18

Brush Creek Hall, located near Wilber, is a simple one-story frame building. It was constructed about 1888 and is the oldest known Sokol hall in Nebraska. The Sokol movement, founded in 1862, is a Czech gymnastic order that advocates a "healthy mind in a healthy body," while promoting patriotic and cultural education. The Brush Creek Sokol was established in 1888 by a small group of boys. By the 1920s there were sixty members, including teams for boys, girls, and adults.



Rad Tabor 74 Z.C.B.J. (Tabor Hall)

[SA00-011] Listed 1985/08/23

Tabor Lodge 74, located near Dorchester in Saline County was organized on October 8, 1899, with fourteen charter members. The Zapadni Cesko Bratske Jednota (Z.C.B.J.) or Western Bohemian Fraternal Association was an outgrowth of the Czech Freethinking movement, which began in Bohemia (a province in the present day Czech Republic) in the mid-nineteenth century. The Freethinkers broke away from organized religion and promoted liberalism and strong national and democratic views. As a fraternal organization, the Z.C.B.J. lodges provided security and ethnic solidarity for Czech immigrants in America. The Z.C.B.J. lodges have been primary conservators of Czech heritage. Tabor Hall was constructed in 1914, with a large dance pavilion added in 1934.

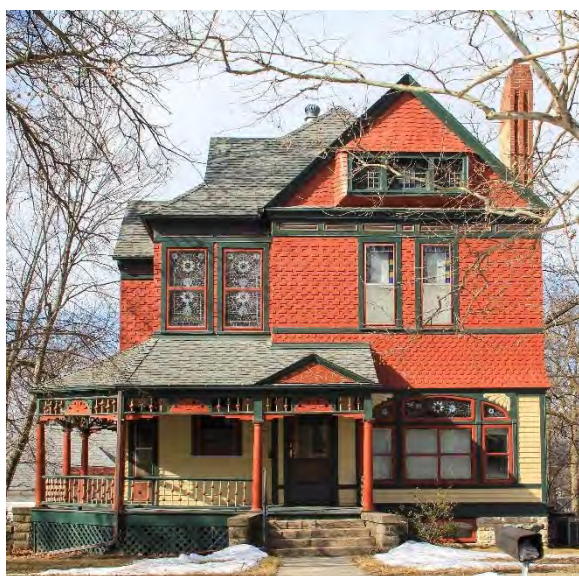


Saline Center Lodge Hall #389

[SA00-043] Listed 1996/01/04

Constructed in 1939, this Z.C.B.J. hall is significant for its association with the Czech-American ethnic culture. The lodge hall is one of two buildings currently identified as being associated with a period of Nebraska history when Czech immigrants were assimilating American culture and establishing a more cooperative attitude among themselves.

URBAN



College Hill Historic District

[SA01-xx] Listed 1983/02/10

The district derives its name from near-by Doane College. The surrounding residential area, which was referred to by local residents as "College Hill," consists mainly of dwellings built by the founders and supporters of Doane College and Crete's business district. Important individuals include James W. Dawes, governor of Nebraska, 1883-87; John S. Brown, Doane College professor and organizer of the Crete Chautauqua; William H. Morris, appointed district court judge in 1883; and John L. Tidball, who organized the First National Bank in Crete. The district comprises architectural styles popular in Nebraska during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



Doane College Historic District

[SA01-xx] Listed 1977/08/16

Located in Crete, the district includes three buildings: Gaylord Hall, a women's dormitory; Whitcomb Conservatory and Lee Memorial Chapel, designed by the Chicago architectural firm of Dean and Dean; and the Boswell Observatory, built to house Doane College's program in astronomy and meteorology. The General Association of Congregational Churches, in its first annual meeting at Fremont in 1857, resolved to "lay the foundations of a literary institution of a high order in Nebraska." Through the efforts of the local pastor and Thomas Doane, chief engineer for the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, Doane College was established in 1872.



Frank J. Rademacher House

[SA01-003] Listed 1980/03/11

Built in 1894, the house, located in Crete, was designed by the Lincoln architectural firm of James Tyler and Son and represents a simplified version of the Queen Anne style. Rademacher achieved success in the furniture and undertaking business from 1870 to 1926 and was a charter member of the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association, organized in 1885.



Johnston-Muff House

[SA01-012] Listed 1977/09/19

The Johnston-Muff House, constructed 1887-89, is a fine example of the Queen Anne style. While employing the usual variety in building materials and roof lines, this dwelling has a side tower rather than the typical corner tower found on most Queen Anne houses in the area. The residence was built for John R. Johnston, a businessman in Crete, and later purchased by Catherine Hier Muff in 1892.



Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church

[SA01-018] Listed 1979/09/14

The present church building, a board and batten structure, was built in 1872 and received additions in 1889 and 1896. It is representative of an important group of churches influenced by the 1852 publication, Upjohn's Rural Architecture. Richard Upjohn's book contained drawings for modern wooden church buildings. Since his drawings were merely intended to offer general guidelines, many parishes, including Trinity Memorial, located in Crete, adapted or modified the designs as local conditions warranted.



Telocvicna Jednota "T.J." Sokol Hall

[SA01-176] Listed 2003/11/26

Built in 1915 the Telocvicna Jednota Sokol Hall is located in Crete. The building is significant for its association with Czech ethnic heritage and as an ethnic community center. Since opening, the hall has been an important gathering site for numerous Czech heritage activities including language and history classes, theater productions, and lodge meetings.



Warren's Opera House

[SA04-034] Listed 1988/09/28

Located in Friend, the two-story brick commercial block was built in 1885-86 by businessman Joshua Warren, at a cost of more than forty thousand dollars. The opera house occupies most of the building's second floor, and has a curved balcony, box office, dressing rooms, and stage with a trapdoor. Rooms surrounding the opera house were used as a lodge hall and for professional office space. The opera house offered performances such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Night Before Christmas."



Richard R. Kiddle House

[SA04-035] Listed 1985/09/12

The Kiddle House, built in 1886, is an excellent example of the French Second Empire style and incorporates distinctive features, including a prominent two-and-one-half-story entry tower. Builder Richard R. Kiddle, who lived in Friend, was a local carpenter and is believed to have constructed other buildings in the area. The property also includes the original two-story carriage barn built in the 1880s.



Saline County Bank

[SA08-069] Listed 1990/04/05

The Saline County Bank is located in Western. Constructed in 1887, it is a well preserved example of a late nineteenth-century commercial building, employing mixed-use commercial and office space. The building is designed in the Italianate style. In many towns these banks occupied prominent corners and served as symbols of progress and solidarity in a growing community. Their design, scale and material needed to reflect these qualities, and thus, these buildings were many times a key component in the central business districts.



William H. Mann House

[SA09-001] Listed 1978/12/29

This imposing house, designed with both Italianate and French Second Empire features, is the only remaining dwelling in the town of Wilber dating to the early 1880s. The milling enterprise founded by William Mann was the chief industry in Wilber for several decades and enjoyed a wide circle of trade.



Saline County Courthouse [SA09-016] Listed 1990/07/05

Saline County was organized in 1867. Swan City was the first county seat, a position it held until 1871 when Pleasant Hill gained that designation. In 1877 another election brought the county seat to Wilber. The following year a courthouse was built. Despite its poor condition the replacement courthouse was not assured until 1927. Construction began the following year and the new courthouse opened in 1929.



Hotel Wilber [SA09-034] Listed 1978/09/20

The need for a commodious brick hotel in Wilber had been discussed as early as 1890, but not until the spring of 1895 was a stock company formed to finance the construction. In August of 1895 the Hotel Wilber opened. The large, two-story brick hotel was an elaborate addition to the commercial development of this small community of 1,000. It was a social center for local citizens and a haven for travelers to this county seat. The Hotel Wilber is an important example of a building type once common in Nebraska's small towns.



Sokol Pavilion [SA09-065] Listed 1998/07/23

Completed in 1930, the Sokol Pavilion in Wilber is significant for its association with the Czech-American ethnic culture. The Sokol movement, founded in Prague, the capital of Bohemia, in 1862, is a Czech gymnastic order which advocates "A sound mind in a sound body," while also promoting patriotic and cultural learning.

RELIGION

Resources associated with this context reflect a formal and institutionalized belief and exercise of faith. Due to the separation of church and state, religious properties are not eligible based on the merits of a particular doctrine. Instead, they must be eligible based on their architectural character or historical importance.

Religious resources located during the survey were a combination of churches and cemeteries, with cemeteries being appreciably more common. Both churches and cemeteries in Saline are also often significant under ethnic history given their ties to Czech history (See Chapter 2).



Sacred Heart Cemetery (SA01-343)



Swanton United Methodist Church (SA06-006)

GOVERNMENT

Representing the act or process of governing, these resources fall under Federal, State, Local or common-law jurisdiction, and include all three branches of government – executive, legislative and judicial as well as taxation, education, public works and services.

There are a limited number of government buildings in Saline County. Those that are in evidence represent local government and services. They include several city halls, fire stations, post offices and public libraries. In some cases, because of the relatively small size of the towns, the uses have been combined during this last half-century into a single building.

Crete's city hall building is the only one with sufficient integrity to be considered in this survey.

Pre-mid-1900 post office buildings in smaller towns are often difficult to identify as they were often housed in a typical commercial building in the downtown area and moved as ownership of the building and the local population changed. In contrast, those that were constructed later were often separate buildings clearly identified as post office. This change in building types reflects the changes in the United States Postal Delivery System in the mid-1900s when the post office began switching from shipping by railroad to shipping by tractor-trailers. Both types of Post Offices exist in Saline County and have been included as active resources within the study.

Public libraries in Saline County represent both Carnegie Libraries as well as privately funded libraries. Several contain enough historic integrity to be included in the survey.



Wilber Post Office
(SA09-147)



Dorchester Post Office
(SA03-051)

ASSOCIATION

Voluntary or involuntary, these resources represent membership in a variety of organizations. Including fraternal, social, trade, special interest, humanitarian, education and many other types of organizations, these resources are an integral part of our communities; many working to make them better places to live and work.

Residents of Saline County formed a wide variety of organizations with commercial, educational, social and cultural bases. These included Masonic Lodges, Odd Fellow's Halls, Commerce Clubs, 4H clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sokols, Western Bohemian Fraternal Association, bands, Extension Clubs, Komensky Clubs and Library Associations, to name a few. The locations these groups met at, as well as the buildings they owned and leased, all have potential for historic significance associated with these groups. While some were easy to identify during this survey, such as Masonic Halls with their corner stones or spandrel panels, others will need additional research to identify.



Wilber Masonic Lodge
(SA09-170)



Crete Fraternal Order of Eagles
(SA01-410)



Friend Community Center (SA04-088)

EDUCATION

Public, private or specialized, educational resources represent our formal attempt to impart or acquire knowledge. Throughout the settlement era of the late 1800s, the number of school age children increased rapidly and in many rural areas one-room school houses were constructed to meet local educational needs. In 1900 however, the number of rural children began to decline as mechanization allowed for larger farms, and laborers moved to other types of jobs in the cities and towns. The Great Depression and the School Consolidation movement accelerated this trend and despite the baby boom of the 1940s and 50s, the number of school districts declined. In Nebraska, the number of school districts peaked in 1920 at 7,263. After the 1949 Reorganization of School Districts Act the number of school districts plummeted.

There are no one-room school houses still in use for educational purposes today in Saline County; however, 10 were located in the survey area. Of these, at least one has been moved from its original location and several more have been altered. Within the towns, there are no first-generation school buildings left. There are several commercial buildings where classes were held for a limited time until the first school buildings were constructed. Additionally, there are several second-generation public and parochial school buildings with good integrity included in this survey.



One Room School House (SA00-091)



One Room School House (SA00-087)



Western School and Gym (SA08-019 and 049)



AGRICULTURE

The art and science of food production, these resources include those used in raising both crops and livestock. Barns, granaries, orchards, windmills, fencing systems, irrigation systems, green houses and sales barns all exemplify this context.

Agricultural buildings are one of the most recognizable features found in the rural landscape. Although Saline County's economic base has shifted in recent decades, since it was historically agrarian there are a significant number of agricultural resources included in the survey. To be included in this survey, both the barns and the farm house needed to have sufficient integrity and age. Roughly one-third of the farmsteads dating from the early twentieth century and included in the previous survey are now non-extant. A significant number of those remaining have lost integrity, making good examples of this property type rare. The survey did add a large number of farmsteads with bungalow style farm houses and a limited number of farmsteads with ranch style farm houses. Barns and outbuildings associated with these farmsteads included both wood framed and metal clad buildings.



Barn (SA00-072)



Agricultural Buildings (SA00-311)



Farmstead (SA00-306)

COMMERCE

These resources are associated with the buying and selling of commodities, either for wholesale, retail, trade or a gift. These resources are typically found in towns and are concentrated in the downtown and industrial areas.

Each of the towns in the Saline County survey includes both commercial and industrial buildings. Most contain buildings with a variety of architectural styles, ages, historic and new functions. Older buildings tended to locate near railroads, while newer buildings tended to locate near highways, reflecting the changes in the favored mode of transportation for the goods created and stored in these resources.

Grain elevators fall within this context and are commonly a notable resource in surveys across Nebraska. Their typical location on the leading edge of town and tall stature makes them icons of many of Nebraska's towns.



Crete Commercial Building (SA01-381)



DeWitt Commercial Building (SA02-058)

TRANSPORTATION

Carrying, moving and conveying people and materials from one place to another, these resources can be found on land, water and air and include related services as well. Examples include immigration routes, roads, gas stations, hotels, railroad systems, railroad depots and airports.

Within the Saline County survey area, many early transportation related resources have been removed or obscured due to changes in transportation over time. This is especially true for railroad related resources in the south half of the county. As tracks have been removed and this land is farmed, traces of these routes are being eliminated. Meanwhile, the Burlington & Northern Depot in Friend, remains a hallmark of this era.

In contrast, automobile related resources tend to be more prevalent in the survey area. They are generally younger and therefore many are still in fair condition. Furthermore, the way in which we use these resources has not changed enough yet to require their substantial alteration or obsolescence.

Additionally, there are a variety of historic routes, bridges and gas stations sections that reflect different eras of overland transportation in Saline County.



Concrete Bridge
(SA00-209)



Crete Municipal Airport
(SA00-186)

SERVICES

Resources in the service context reflect both private professional services regulated by the government, such as banking, legal and architectural services, as well as support services provided or regulated by the government and commonly viewed as necessities such as public utilities and emergency response services.

Towns have always revolved around service industries as much as they have revolved around commerce. Often private professional services, in particular popular restaurants, banks, beauty salons and funeral parlors develop into local institutions over the years. Likewise, utilities, police and fire fighters were often organized at the town level. Although the population of many towns in Saline County has been declining, many are still able to provide many of these functions, most commonly including fire fighters and popular restaurants.



Dorchester Telephone Building
(SA03-027)



Wilber Waterworks
(SA09-058)



Crete Wastewater Treatment Plant
(SA00-239)

SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS

Involving the division, acquisition and ownership of land and the patterns generated to facilitate cultural systems. These resources represent the ways in which people have obtained land ownership, planned communities and inhabited the land. They include land plats, districts zoned for particular uses and the overall framework in which we construct our towns.

Like most of Nebraska, Saline County is generally platted following the matrix established by the Public Land Survey system. Exceptions can be found in almost all of the towns along the railroad tracks, which generally angled through the county, and in the newer areas of Crete, where curved roads appear.

Typical of reconnaissance surveys, residential buildings compromise the largest number of resources in the survey area and the bulk of the final inventory. The majority of these are single-family residences. Crete, with the largest population, also has the highest number of multi-family housing options, including duplexes and apartment buildings. The amount of early construction in this county means that the majority of the residential resources in the survey area were old enough to be reviewed for this inventory. Of the buildings that are old enough to potentially be considered for the inventory, there is a fairly even distribution of pre-1940 and 1940-1960 construction. Buildings included in the final inventory represent each building era. Those constructed prior to 1920 tend to be common building forms without an identifiable architectural style, while later buildings tend to be finished in a recognizable architectural style.



Ell House – Casteel Farmhouse
(SA00-111)



Second Empire – 107 Gage St,
Swanton (SA06-019)



Bungalow – 210 W 2nd St, Wilber
(SA09-132)



Bungalow – 408 N School, Wilber
(SA09-090)



Bungalow – 215 Main St, Swanton
(SA06-030)



Bungalow – 415 W 7th St, Wilber
(SA09-196)



Bungalow with Prairie Style Elements –
1029 Grove, Crete (SA01-226)



Spanish Revival – 302 Main St, Tobias
(SA07-045)



Tudor Revival – 644 Linden Ave, Crete
(SA01-458)



Minimal Traditional – 212 W 8th St,
Wilber (SA09-197)



Ranch – 203 York Ave, DeWitt
(SA02-080)



Ranch – 604 W 2nd St, Wilber
(SA09-121)

CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

Successful preservation of historic properties always depends upon people willing and able to take the initiative to save those properties. Saline County is fortunate enough to have residents who possess a love of history and their community. Following are several recommendations to assist their efforts.

PROPERTIES PREVIOUSLY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP)

THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Seventeen properties and two historic districts previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in Saline County are recognized individually and are well known locally as being listed on the NRHP. They are therefore likely to remain in good condition, even after changes in ownership, since new owners are more likely to be aware of the historic significance of the property and be purchasing it in part because of its history. The major threat to these properties, then, is also their greatest opportunity. As the population grows, pressure to widen roads, install new utilities and enhance the energy efficiency of these buildings will change the setting and potentially the appearance of these buildings. However, it also means that more people will be exposed to these buildings, creating greater public awareness and an emotional investment by the growing numbers of neighbors who are likely to promote their future protection.

RECOMMENDATION - ADOPT PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

In order to preserve and enhance these resources and others listed on the NRHP in the future, Saline County should strongly consider implementing a historic preservation commission and adopting design guidelines for renovation. Adopting such guidelines would be one way to ensure that the character of a property which appealed to the owner when purchasing it, would continue to be maintained. This works particularly well in historic districts where the character of the neighborhood can be maintained as well. Studies by economists suggest that such guidelines work. They ensure neighborhood stability and protect property owners from potential value-reducing actions that other property owners might take. In contrast, historic properties and districts without guidelines continue to lose integrity and property values in these area are no higher than those in similar areas that are not listed. Furthermore, preserving and enhancing the character of Saline County's National Register-listed properties would enhance their reputations and in turn add to their appeal in Saline County's heritage tourism campaigns.

Models for preservation guidelines can be found in many cities, including Omaha, Lincoln and Red Cloud, Nebraska. To provide the most value, they should be adopted and enforced as part of the local zoning code. In addition, they should apply to properties listed both individually and, most importantly, those listed in the historic districts.

Ideally, preservation guidelines should regulate several things. At an individual building level, they should regulate alterations in exterior appearance. This would include changes to the details that

create a building's character, such as siding and windows. They should also address changes to the overall massing and scale of the building. At a community level, they should address massing, scale and the general form of infill buildings as well as other elements of the urban fabric that contribute to the historic nature of certified districts. Such guidelines are drafted with public participation and can be tailored to the specific needs of each property or district.

PROPERTIES POTENTIALLY INDIVIDUALLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE NRHP

Properties listed individually on the NRHP must clearly embody an area of significance and are held to the highest standards of integrity. The more common a type of resource is, the higher a level of integrity it must retain in order to be listed. For example, single family residences are held to higher standards of integrity compared to downtown commercial buildings.

Within this survey area, there are 21 properties potentially eligible for the NRHP individually. Together they represent a broad range of ages for built resources in Saline County. However, while they also touch on a variety of property types and historic contexts, they do not illustrate the full spectrum of resources included in the inventory. In most cases this is due to a lack of extant resources with sufficient integrity to represent a particular historic context well, as discussed in Chapter 3.



Farmhouse - 2343 County Rd 2300
(SA00-333)



Farmhouse - 2018 County Rd 600
(SA00-309)



Farmstead (House and Barns) - 2115 County Rd T (SA00-312)





Farmstead (House and Barns) - 2365 County Rd 2300 (SA00-220)



Farmstead (House and Barns) - 132 County Rd Q (SA00-290)



Farmstead (House and Barns) – 1926 County Rd K (SA00-072)

Saline County



Farmstead (House and Barns) - 654 County Rd G (SA00-235)



American Legion - Wilber - (SA09-179)



Bank - Friend - (SA04-078)



St. Augustine's Episcopal Church - DeWitt - (SA02-001)



Gas Station - Western - (SA08-062)



Train Depot - Friend - (SA04-003)



Dvrocek Memorial Library - Wilber - (SA09-143)



Gilbert Library - Friend - (SA04-002)

Saline County



Pyramidal Cottage – 703 4th St, Friend
(SA04-052)



Pyramidal Cottage – 1126 Linden Ave, Crete
(SA01-429)



Eclectic House – 1120 E. 13th St, Crete
(SA01-039)



Lustron House - 701 Boswell Ave, Crete
(SA01-076)



Cross Gable House – 405 W. 3rd St, Wilber
(SA09-039)



Cross Gable House – 605 S. School St, Wilber
(SA09-042)



Foursquare House – 404 W. 2nd St, Wilber
(SA09-123)

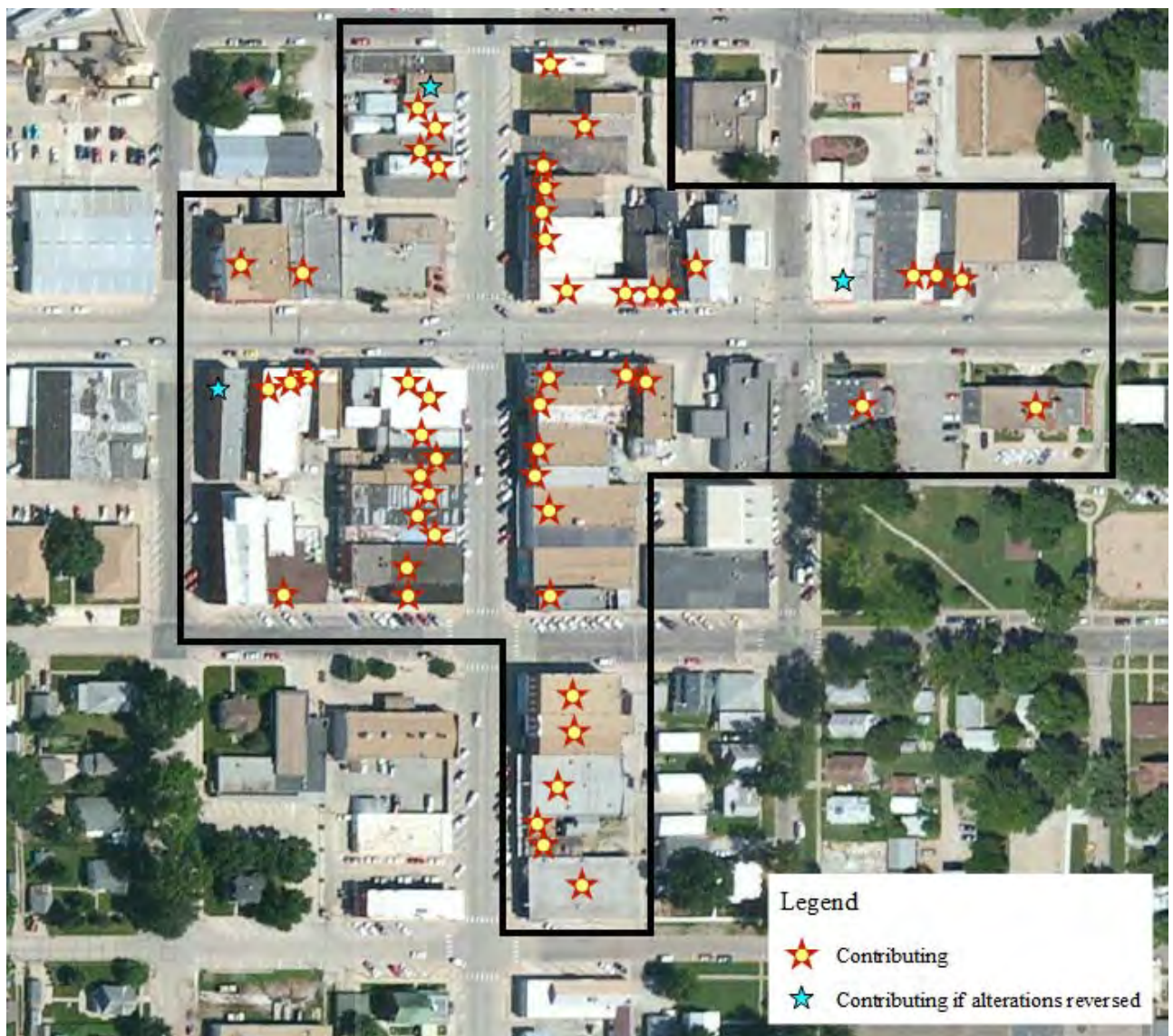


Cenak Duras House – 205 N. Franklin St, Wilber
(SA09-002)

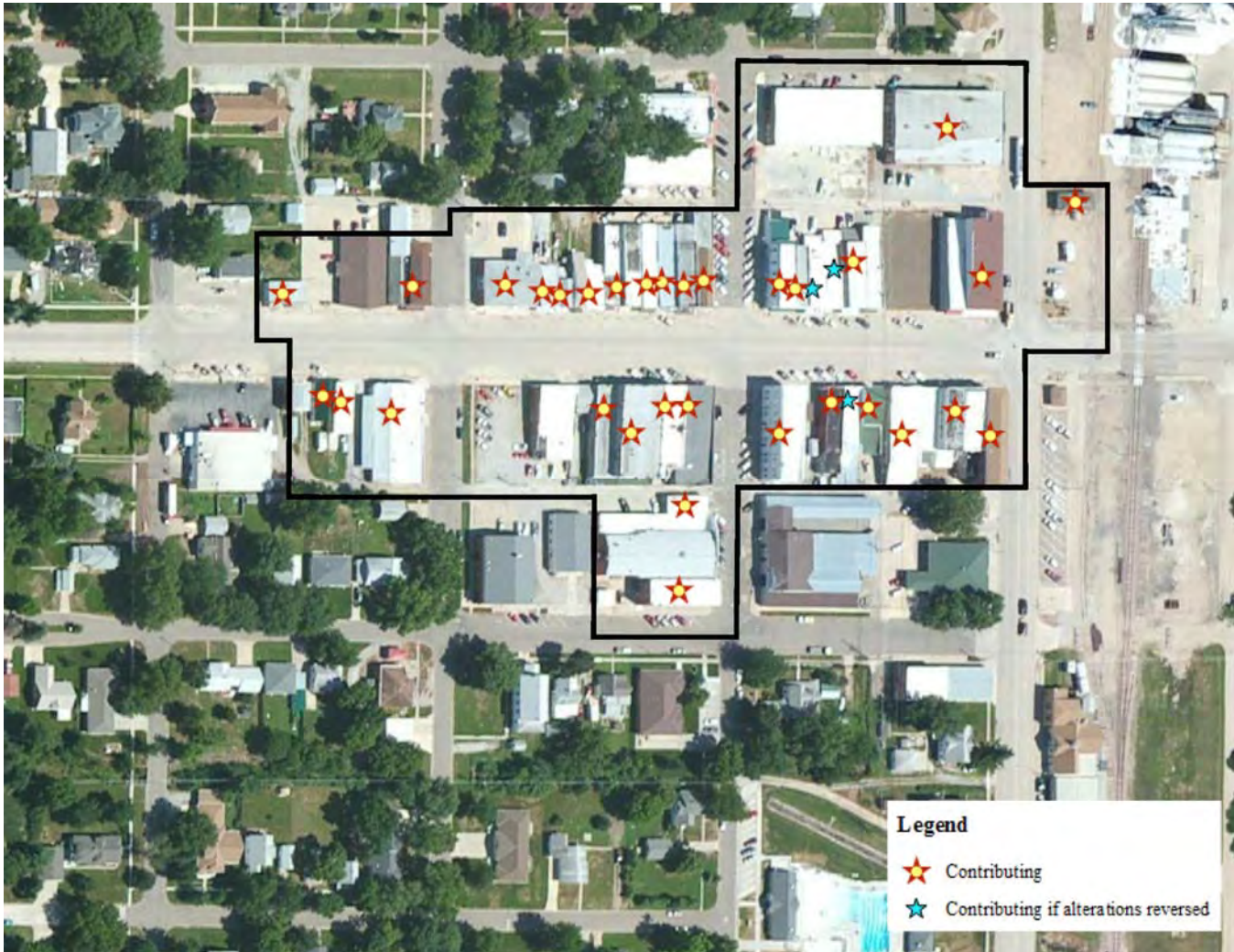
PROPERTIES POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE AS HISTORIC DISTRICTS FOR THE NRHP

Areas with a high concentration of resources that share a common history may be nominated to the NRHP as an historic district. Individual properties within a proposed historic district are not held to the same standard of integrity that an individually listed resource is held. However, the overall district must maintain a high level of integrity. The Collage Hill Historic District in Crete, for example, is a collection of single family homes that share a past as the residences of founders and supporters of Doane College and Crete's business district. Within this survey, the downtowns of Crete and Wilber both contain sufficient concentrations of commercial buildings of sufficient age and integrity to make them potentially eligible as historic districts.

The Crete Commercial Historic District would be roughly bound by E. 14th Street on the north, Kingwood Avenue on the east, W. 11th Street on the south, and Norman Avenue on the west. It would be eligible under Criterion A Community Planning and Development and Commerce for its association with the commercial development of Crete through the Mid-Century.



The Wilber Commercial Historic District would be roughly bound by W. 2nd Street on the north, Main Street on the east, W. 4th Street on the south, and School Street on the west. It would be eligible under Criterion A Community Planning and Development and Commerce for its association with the commercial development of Wilber. Additionally, it would be eligible under Criterion A Ethnic History for its association with Czech settlement and early assimilation in America.



PROPERTIES POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE WITHIN MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTS FOR THE NRHP

Multiple Property Documents (MPDs) for the National Register are a means to capture a history that is shared by a significant number of sites that are not located close enough together to form a district. It also sets the eligibility criteria for a set of resources. These criteria can be spatial, temporal or physical, meaning that the MPD can set a period resources must have been constructed within, an area they must be located within and/or a level of physical integrity a resource must meet based on a comparison of the resources that fall under the MPD. MPDs can be used at a city, county or state level and can cover all four types of resources, all four criteria and any combination of areas of significance. For example, there are MPDs in Nebraska for County Courthouses, Historic Bridges, and Historic Highways.

A MPD is not itself a nomination to the NRHP. Rather, the shared historic context it provides for a set of resources and the criteria it sets for their nomination can be used as a reference in NRHP nominations. In this way, large numbers of resources that share a history do not have to rewrite that history each time they are nominated. Instead, they discuss their individual features and how they fit into the larger context already provided by the MPD.

Within the survey area, the Saline County Courthouse has been listed on the National Register. From the Historic Bridge MPD, there are two bridges that would potentially use the Historic Bridge MPD for listing. These include a steel girder and floor beam bridge (SA00-153), C007601330, located on County Rd 700 between F & G and a steel truss through bridge (SA00-207), C007614620, located on County Rd W east of Road 1700. Although the Detroit-Lincoln-Denver Highway passes through the northeastern corner of Saline County, no resources within the county were recommended for listing in the Historic Highway MPD. Czech resources would potentially use a new MPD to nominate widespread resources to the NRHP.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESERVATION PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THREATS

The largest threat to resources in Saline County comes from the increased demands on land as pressure is applied to continue increasing farm size. As the number of farmsteads diminish, farm homes and barns are abandoned and then removed to make way for additional crops.

OPPORTUNITIES

Enhanced Heritage Tourism

According to a 2007 study, heritage tourism is a \$100 million dollar industry for Nebraska. Saline County and Wilber in particular has already shown an interest in promoting heritage tourism. The county possesses a number of destinations and sight-seeing possibilities for those interested in history and historic places. The recommendations listed above would ensure that this area of economic development continues to grow. Another source of funding to assist in furthering these heritage tourism efforts may be found at the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Travel and Tourism Division.

Create CLGs in Crete and Wilber, or a County-Wide CLG

To create preservation guidelines and assist in other preservation efforts, one source of funding and support is the National Park Service's Certified Local Government Program (CLG). In other communities throughout Nebraska, CLG funding has contributed to updating comprehensive plans, creating heritage tourism brochures, creating websites for town histories, assisting with funding city employee salaries, and much more. Creation of one or several CLGs would allow local input in the preservation process and assure some funding for this work within Saline County.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Wilber has a significant number of well-designed bungalows. While they are too dispersed to create a historic district on their own, with further research a common theme may be identified that allows them to be joined with other resources into a historic resources. For example, if they and neighboring buildings were constructed by a common developer or builder, or at the same time for a particular market group, they may be able to be listed on the National Register.

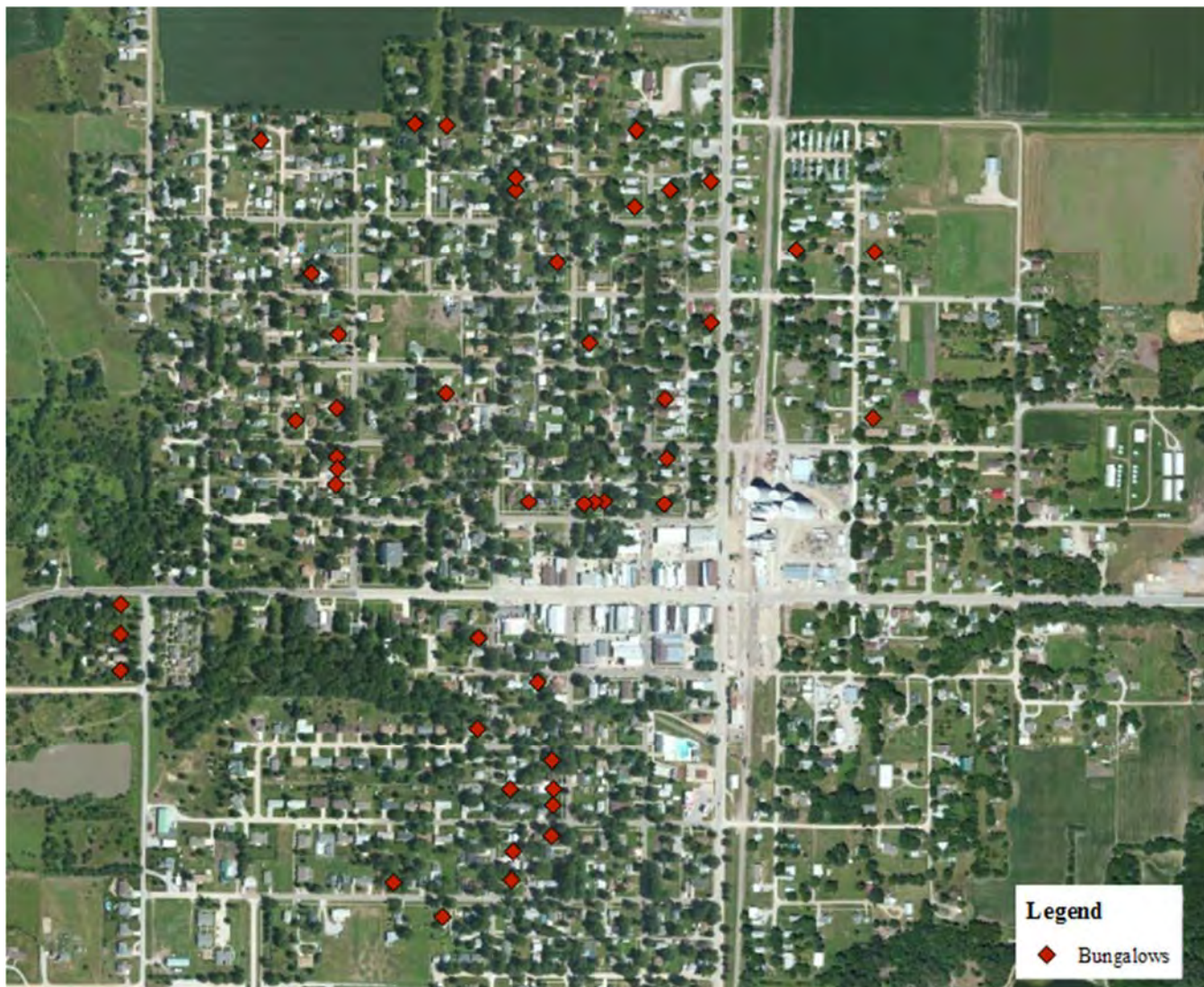


Figure 79: Surveyed bungalows in Wilber

CHAPTER 6: FURTHER INFORMATION

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (NESHPO)

The NeSHPO administers a wide range of preservation programs that are of benefit to Saline County residents. The duties required of the NeSHPO are set out under the National Historic Preservation Act and include the following:

- Conducting and maintaining a statewide historic resources survey.
- Administering the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) program.
- Assisting local governments in the development of historic preservation programs and certification of qualifying governments as Certified Local Governments under the NPS program.
- Providing guidance and administering the federal tax incentives program for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Providing guidance and administering the state tax incentives programs for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Assisting federal agencies in their responsibility to identify and protect historic properties that may be affected by their projects.
- Providing preservation education, training, and technical assistance to individuals and groups and local, state, and federal agencies.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

One of the goals for conducting surveys is to identify properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register. The National Register is our nation's official list of significant historic properties. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes buildings, structures, districts, objects, and sites that are significant in our history or prehistory. These properties and objects may reflect a historically significant pattern, event, person, architectural style, or archaeological site. National Register properties may be significant at the local-, state-, or national-levels.

Properties need not be as historic as Fort Robinson or architecturally spectacular as the Nebraska State Capitol to be listed in the National Register. Local properties that retain their physical integrity and convey local historic significance may also be listed. It is important to note what listing a property in the National Register means, or perhaps more importantly does not mean.

The ***National Register DOES NOT:***

- Restrict, in any way, a private property owner's ability to alter, manage or dispose of a property.
- Require that properties be maintained, repaired, or restored.
- Invoke special zoning or local landmark designation.

- Allow the listing of an individual private property over an owner's objection.
- Allow the listing of an historic district over a majority of property owners' objections.

Listing a property on the ***National Register DOES:***

- Provide recognition to significant properties.
- Encourage the preservation of historic properties.
- Provide information about historic properties for local and statewide planning purposes.
- Promote community development, tourism, and economic development.
- Provide basic eligibility for financial incentives, when available.

For more information, contact the National Register Coordinator in Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office at (402) 471-4787 or by email at nshs.hp@nebraska.gov.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In an effort to increase local preservation activities and link local governments with the nationwide preservation network of federal, state and local organizations, the National Park Service and the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office work with local governments through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. This program recognizes that a local government has established its own historic preservation commission and a program meeting federal and state standards. This program must establish a historic preservation ordinance that includes protection for historic properties at a level the community decides is appropriate, provide for public education and participation, including the process of nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and set a system in place for conducting and maintaining a survey and inventory of historic properties.

All Certified Local Governments are eligible for grants to assist in the implementation of local preservation programs. These grants can be used to finance a variety of preservation related activities including survey work, preparation of National Register nominations, education programs, publications, staff support, workshops and preservation events. In addition, they receive technical assistance and training from the State Historic Preservation Office about historic preservation.

FEDERAL HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM (FHTC)

Since 1976 the Internal Revenue Code has contained provisions offering tax credits for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties. Historic properties are defined as those listed in the National Register, or as buildings that contribute to the significance of a National Register Historic District, or a local landmark/historic district that have been certified by the Secretary of the Interior.

A certified rehabilitation is one that conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The Standards are a common sense approach to the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. It is important to remember that this program promotes the rehabilitation of historic properties so that they may be used to the benefit and enjoyment of the property owner and the community. The program does not necessarily require a property to be reconstructed or restored to

its original condition, but historically significant materials, features, finishes, and spaces should be retained to the greatest extent possible.

The FHTC in Nebraska has been responsible for:

- Reinvesting millions of dollars for the preservation of historic buildings.
- Establishing thousands of low- and moderate-income housing units and upper-income units.
- Encouraging the adaptive reuse of previously under or unutilized historic properties in older downtown commercial areas.
- Helping to broaden the tax base.
- Giving real estate developers and city planners the incentive to consider projects in older, historic neighborhoods.
- Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods.

Certification of the historic character of the income-producing property—usually by listing the property in the National Register—and certification of the historic rehabilitation is made by both the NeSHPO and the National Park Service. Before initiating any activity for a project that anticipates the use of preservation tax credits, owners should contact the NeSHPO and a professional tax advisor, legal counsel, or appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office.

NEBRASKA HISTORIC TAX CREDIT (NHTC)

In 2014, the Nebraska State Legislature passed the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Redevelopment Act. This program offers a total of \$15 million in state historic preservation tax credits for each calendar year from 2015 to 2018. It is administered jointly by the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

This program provides a twenty percent (20%) Nebraska tax credit for eligible expenditures made to rehabilitate, restore or preserve historic buildings. This is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state tax liability, which can be transferred with limitations. The minimum project investment must equal or exceed \$25,000; with a maximum of \$1 million in credits allowed per project.

To qualify, rehabilitation work must meet generally accepted preservation standards, and the historic property must be:

- Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or is in the process of nomination/listing
- Located within a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places or part of a pending district nomination/listing
- Listed individually under a certified local preservation ordinance or is pending designation **or**
- Located within a historic district designated under a certified local preservation ordinance or located within a district that is pending designation.

To qualify, a historic property must **NOT** be:

- A detached, single-family residences.

VALUATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (VIP)

The Valuation Incentive Program (VIP) is a property tax incentive that assists in the preservation of Nebraska's historic buildings. After the project is completed, the assessed valuation of a historic property is frozen for eight years at the value when rehabilitation started, known as the "base" valuation. The taxable valuation then rises to its actual value over a four year period. To be eligible for this state tax incentive, a building must:

- Be a qualified historic structure, either by listing in the National Register or by local landmark designation through an approved local government ordinance.
- Be substantially rehabilitated, which means the project must be worth at least 25 percent of the property's "base" assessed value.
- Be rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation
- Buildings must be a qualified historic structure and the NeSHPO must receive an application in order for expenditures to qualify. The tax freeze benefits the owners of the historic properties and the community by:
 - Providing a real economic incentive to rehabilitate historic buildings.
 - Increasing the long-term tax base of a community.
 - Helping stabilize older, historic neighborhoods and commercial areas.
 - Encouraging the promotion, recognition, and designation of historic buildings.
 - Allowing participation by local governments that enact approved historic preservation ordinances.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The primary function of the NeSHPO is to assist communities in preserving significant buildings, sites, and structures that convey a sense of community history. The most powerful tool available to the NeSHPO in this regard is public education. For this reason, NeSHPO staff spends considerable time conducting public meetings and workshops and disseminating information to the public.

The NeSHPO's goal is to assist local individuals, groups, and governments understand, promote, and preserve historic properties. The NeSHPO advocates not only the self-evident aesthetic advantages of historic preservation, but also the potential for preservation to help promote economic development, community planning, tourism, environmental sensitivity, and land-use planning.

As all NeSHPO programs originate from a common source—the National Historic Preservation Act—they work best when they work together, either in whole or in part. For the programs to function at all, they require the interest and participation of the people they are meant to serve . . . the public.

For more information about the NeSHPO or any of the programs discussed, contact the Project Coordinator at the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office at (402) 471-4787 or (800) 833-6747 or by email at nshs.hp@nebraska.gov. Additional information is also available at the Nebraska State Historical Society web page at www.nebraskahistory.org.

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APPENDIX A: ACTIVE RESOURCES

RURAL

Farmstead	SA00-008	925 County Rd 1500	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-021		Dwellings in Dispersed and Clustered Settlements
OHIOWA Chicago Burlington & Quincy Depot	SA00-023		Burlington
DAYKIN Chicago Burlington & Quincy Depot	SA00-024		Burlington
Farmstead	SA00-096	County Rd Q between County Rd 600 & 700	Dwellings in Dispersed and Clustered Settlements
Farmstead	SA00-113	191 County Rd 1900	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-114		Farming and Ranching
Power House Remains	SA00-116		Public Utilities: Electricity
Farmstead	SA00-180	County Rd U west of Rd 1400	Central Plains Cash Grain and Livestock Production
Farmstead	SA00-182		Central Plains Czech Settlement
Smith Cemetery	SA00-189	County Rd VV between Rds 1900 & 2100	RELIGION
Missile Silo	SA00-192	County Rd P west of Rd 1600	Defensive Systems
Friendville Cemetery	SA00-202	N of Friend between County Rds 500 & 600	RELIGION
Cemetery	SA00-208		RELIGION
One-room schoolhouse	SA00-247	County Rd I between County Rd 300 & 400	Rural Education
Farmstead	SA00-248	988 County Rd I	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-249	County Rd 1600 between County Rd HH & II	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-250	2146 County Rd H	Farming and Ranching
Smithfield Farmland	SA00-251	2223 County Rd I	Processing Industry
Bridge	SA00-252	County Rd J between County Rd 200 & 300	Roads/Highways
Barn	SA00-253	State Highway 15 between County Rd J & K	Farming and Ranching

Saline County

Farmstead	SA00-254	1169 County Rd J	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-255	975 County Rd 1600	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-256	634 County Rd K	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-257	675 County Rd K	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-258	746 County Rd K	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-259	County Rd 1800 between County Rd K & L	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-260	1131 County Rd 1900	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-261	1070 County Rd 2100	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-262	2175 County Rd K	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-263	County Rd K between County Rd 2250 & 2350	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-264	521 County Rd O	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-265	555 County Rd L	Farming and Ranching
House	SA00-266	961 County Rd L	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-267	1177 County Rd 1400	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-268	1151 Highway 103	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-269	1201 Country Rd 2350	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-270	1688 County Rd M	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-271	1930 County Rd M	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-272	1425 County Rd 600	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-273	644 County Rd N (Highway 41)	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-274	1433 County Rd 900	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-275	1612 County Rd N	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-276	1425 Highway 103	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-277	1509 County Rd 1400	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-278	1508 County Rd 1700	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-279	County Road O between County Rd 1900 and 2000	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-280	172 County Rd P	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-281	NEC County Rd P & 200	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-282	County Rd P west of County Rd 900	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-283	1591 County Rd 900	Farming and Ranching
Covered bridge	SA00-284	951 County Rd P	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-285	963 County Rd P	Farming and Ranching
Barns	SA00-286	1632 County Rd 1400	Farming and Ranching

Single family house and outbuildings	SA00-287	1506 Highway 41	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-288	1610 Highway 41	Farming and Ranching
Barn	SA00-289	1551 Country Rd 2350	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-290	132 County Rd Q	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-291	266 County Rd Q	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-292	1711 County Rd 900	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-293	1350 County Rd Q	Farming and Ranching
Barn	SA00-294	1663 County Rd 1500	Farming and Ranching
One-room schoolhouse	SA00-295	1703 Highway S76D (County Rd 1600)	Rural Education
Single family house	SA00-296	1658 County Rd 1700	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-297	County Rd 2000 on E side (south of SA00-169)	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-298	300-304 County Rd R	Farming and Ranching
Barn	SA00-299	373 County Rd R	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-300	458 County Rd R	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-301	561 County Rd R	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-302	1829 County Rd 1800	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-303	1932 County Rd 200	Farming and Ranching
One-room schoolhouse	SA00-304	441 County Rd S	Rural Education
Single family house	SA00-305	1300 County Rd S	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-306	1436 County Rd S	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-307	1866 County Rd 2100	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-308	530 State Highway 74	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-309	2018 County Rd 600	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-310	1972 County Rd 800	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-311	1206 County Rd T	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-312	2115 County Rd T	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-313	County Rd U west of Rd 1400	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-314	1370 County Rd U	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-315	470 County Rd V	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-316	828 County Rd V	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-317	NWC E. Sumner & Bradshaw Streets	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-318	1701-1799 State Highway 15	Farming and Ranching

Saline County

Farmstead	SA00-319	1198 County Rd V	Farming and Ranching
House	SA00-320	2223 Highway S76D (County Rd 1600)	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-321	County Rd 1800 just N of VV	Roads/Highways
Small house	SA00-322	1978 County Rd UU	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-323	2175 County Rd 2000	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-324	2140 County Rd VV	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-325	2155 County Rd 2250	Farming and Ranching
Bridge	SA00-326	100 County Rd W	Roads/Highways
Farmstead	SA00-327	2301 County Rd 200	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-328	2358 County Rd 300	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-329	2331 County Rd 600	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-330	2313 County Rd 800	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-331	2259 County Rd 1400	Farming and Ranching
Farmhouse	SA00-332	1589 County Rd W	Farming and Ranching
Single family house	SA00-333	2343 County Rd 2300	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-334	2279 County Rd 2425	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-335	2427 County Rd 400	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-336	2444 County Rd 400	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-337	2448 County Rd 1000	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-338	2466 Highway 15	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-339	1359 County Rd Y	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-340	1738 County Rd Y	Farming and Ranching
Farmstead	SA00-341	2078 County Rd Y	Farming and Ranching
Grain Elevator	SA00-342	County Rd 2450, N of DeWitt	Specialized Agricultural
Buckingham School, District 35	SA00-343	SWC Washington Ave & Highway 33	Rural Education
Center Hall	SA00-344	SWC Washington Ave & Highway 34	Community Hall
Post Office	SA00-345	SWC Washington Ave & Highway 35	Postal Communication

CRETE

Miller Pond	SA01-000	Doane College	
Single family house	SA01-001	1112 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-002	1140 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-003	1424 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-004	1205 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Appendix A: Active Resources

Single family house	SA01-005	1112 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-006	1039 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Gaylord Hall	SA01-007	Doane College	Colleges and Universities
Whitcomb Conservatory/Lee Memorial Chapel	SA01-008	Doane College	Colleges and Universities
Boswell Observatory	SA01-009	Doane College	Colleges and Universities
Men's Hall	SA01-011	Doane College	Colleges and Universities
Single family house	SA01-012	1422 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Plymouth Congregational Church	SA01-015	NE corner Ivy & 9th	Congregational Churches in Nebraska
Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church	SA01-018	NE corner 4th & Juniper	Episcopal Church in Nebraska
St. James Catholic School	SA01-019	SE corner Ivy & 4th	Parochial Education
Sacred Heart Church	SA01-020	NE corner 13th & ivy	Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska
Commercial Building	SA01-022	1245 Main Avenue	Banking
Single family house	SA01-023	924 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Sacred Heart Rectory	SA01-024	NWC 13th & Hawthorne	Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska
Single family house	SA01-025	909 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-026	709 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-028	1007 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-029	1022 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-031	941 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-032	839 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-033	941 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-034	942 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-037	1242 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-039	1120 East 13th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Grace Methodist Episcopal Church	SA01-041	NW corner 13th & Juniper	Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska
Single family house	SA01-042	1107 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial building	SA01-043	130-136 East 13th Street	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA01-047	1241 Main	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA01-048	1239 Main	COMMERCE
Fairmont Creamery Company	SA01-050	Main & SE side of Railroad tracks	Dairy Manufacturing
Commercial building	SA01-052	1148 Main	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA01-053	1140 Main	Retail Commerce
Commercial building	SA01-054	1228 Main	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA01-055	1246 Main	Retail Commerce

Saline County

Commercial building	SA01-056	1202 Main	Colleges and Universities
Single family house	SA01-058	2123 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-061	709 East 11th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-062	944 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-065	SEC 11th & Ivy	Lutheranism
Single family house	SA01-066	1124 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-067	1210 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-068	1144 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-069	1040 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-070	838 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-071	910 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-073	1310 East 13th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-074	824 East 11th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-075	717 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-076	701 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-077	627 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-078	SWC 6th & Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-086	745 East 5th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-088	610 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-089	638 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-090	707 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-092	742 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-095	1342 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-096	638 East 14 Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house barn/carriage	SA01-100	529 Ivy	Professional Schooling
Single family house	SA01-101	641 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-102	1115 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-103	905 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-104	812 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-105	807 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Pastor's Study	SA01-111	837 Hawthorne	Lutheran Church in America, in Nebraska
Single family house	SA01-113	909 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-114	1010 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-115	1023 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-116	1043 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-117	1108 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Single family house	SA01-118	1126 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-119	1142 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-120	610 East 12th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-121	1241 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-122	612 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
United Church of Christ	SA01-124	NW corner 12th & Ivy	United Church of Christ in Nebraska
Single family house	SA01-125	1141 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-126	1030 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-127	1019 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-128	920 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-129	842 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-138	741 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-139	740 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
United Church of Christ Parsonage	SA01-142	408 East 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-143	407 East 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
City Hall	SA01-146	SWC 13th & Kingwood	Local Government
Post Office	SA01-147	SEC 13th & Linden	Postal Communication
Single family house	SA01-153	629 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-154	640 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-155	705 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-157	728 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-158	729 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-165	746 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-166	645 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-167	508 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-168	526 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-174	915 Unona Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Crete Livestock Market	SA01-175	11th & Unona Avenue	Specialized Livestock Breeding
Telecvicna Jednota Sokol	SA01-176	NEC 12th & Norman	Czech-American Settlement in Nebraska
Single family house	SA01-180	1030 Oak Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-182	1111 Oak Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-183	301 West 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-184	242 West 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-186	406 West 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Single family house	SA01-190	1045 Quince Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-197	907 West 13th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Chautauqua Office	SA01-200	Tuxedo Park	Fairs and Expositions
Single family house	SA01-205	1706 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-207	1706 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Crete Mills	SA01-215	NWC 15th & Main	Milling
Single family house	SA01-216	1143 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-217	1129 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-218	1143 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-219	1022 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-220	840 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-221	817 East 14th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-222	529 East 11th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-223	809 East 14th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-224	639 East 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-225	1010 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-226	1029 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-227	622 East 13th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-228	1339 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-229	606 E. 14th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-230	1416 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
St. James Hall	SA01-231	NW corner 13th & Hawthorne	Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska
Convent	SA01-232	515 East 14th	Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska
Law Office	SA01-233	SEC 13th & Ivy	SERVICES
Single family house	SA01-234	525 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-235	619 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-236	629 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-237	NWC 13th & Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-238	709 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-239	739 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-240	1243 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-241	744 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-242	810 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-244	919 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-245	927 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-246	738 East 11th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Single family house	SA01-247	1117 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-254	1037 W. 11th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-255	542 West 11th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-256	905 Redwood	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-257	822 Redwood	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-264	415 W. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-271	1045 Norman	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-279	240 W. 20th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-281	142 W. 20th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-284	144 W. 17th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-287	1609 Oak	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Saline County Shop Garage	SA01-289	NEC 16th & Pine	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA01-297	1945 Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-298	2023 Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-302	2228 Linden	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-303	2140 Linden	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-310	643 Juniper	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-315	730 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-316	1131 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-321	1146 SPRUCE	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-323	2406 MAINE	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-330	706 Oak	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-335	1651 Norman	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Riverside Cemetery	SA01-342		RELIGION
Sacred Heart Cemetery	SA01-343	Arizona Avenue south of Highway 33	RELIGION
Single family house	SA01-344	127 E 9th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-345	919 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial	SA01-346	1314 Main St.	COMMERCE
House (1 or 2 room shed/cottage)	SA01-347	1944 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Barn	SA01-348	near 1944 Ivy	
False front building	SA01-349	N of house at 2406 Main	
Multi-family Apartment	SA01-350	7120 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-351	2006 Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-352	1924 Kingwood	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-353	1840 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Single family house	SA01-354	1829 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-355	1815 Ridgeway Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-356	1755 Ridgeway Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-357	1235 Crestline Dr	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-358	1729 Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-359	1706 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-360	1005 Longwood Dr	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-361	1621 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-362	1415 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-363	1543 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-364	1540 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-365	1528 Juniper	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Tabitha of Crete	SA01-366	1540 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-367	836 E. 15th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-368	1440 E. 15th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-369	1422 Juniper	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-370	1436 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-371	1425 Doane	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-372	1520 E. 13th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-373	SEC Jasmine Ave	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-374	1346 Norman	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Crete Martial Arts Academy/Kidz'n Power	SA01-375	136-140 W. 13th	Leisure and Recreation
VFW	SA01-376	130 W. 13th	Fraternal and Social Organizations
Ligia's Office	SA01-377	1341 Main	Retail Commerce
L & L Nail Creations	SA01-378	1339 Main	Professional Services
Prochaska Tax Service / Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors	SA01-379	1335 Main	Professional Services
Hanson, Hroch & Kuntz Law Offices	SA01-380	1331 Main	Professional Services
Commercial Building	SA01-381	1327 Main	Retail Commerce
Carl's Boot & Shoe Repair	SA01-382	1344 Main	Professional Services
Hair Dimensions	SA01-383	1334 Main	Professional Services
Kathryn's Kurl Shop	SA01-384	1328 Main	Professional Services
Clabaugh Agency	SA01-385	1324 Main	Professional Services
Commercial Building	SA01-386	1318 Main	Retail Commerce
Felsing Chiropractic	SA01-387	1314-16 Main	Health Care

Main Avenue Furniture	SA01-388	1302 Main	Retail Commerce
Royal Prestige	SA01-389	120 E. 13th	Retail Commerce
Ministerios	SA01-390	124 E. 13th	Retail Commerce
Clothing Store	SA01-391	128 E. 13th	Retail Commerce
Ken's U Save Pharmacy	SA01-392	1302 Linden	Retail Commerce
Chiropractor Center	SA01-393	220 E. 13th	Health Care
Steven J. Reisdorff Law Office	SA01-394	224 E. 13th	Professional Services
Commercial Building	SA01-395	228 E. 13th	Retail Commerce
Single family house	SA01-396	435 W. 13th St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-397	1220 Oak Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial Building	SA01-398	145 W. 13th	Retail Commerce
Isis Theatre	SA01-399	139 W. 13th	Leisure and Recreation
Commercial Building	SA01-400	131 W. 13th	Retail Commerce
Crete Glamour	SA01-401	125 W. 13th	Professional Services
Salon La Petit	SA01-402	1235 Main	Professional Services
Quality Cleaners	SA01-403	1229 Main	Professional Services
Super Latina Market	SA01-404	1225 Main	Retail Commerce
La Princesa	SA01-405	1221 Main	Retail Commerce
Antojitos Guatemalecos	SA01-406	1217 Main	Retail Commerce
Commercial Building	SA01-407	1215 Main	Retail Commerce
New Beginning's	SA01-408	1209-11 Main	Retail Commerce
Le's Nail Spa	SA01-409	1201 Main	Professional Services
Crete F.O.E. Eagles	SA01-410	3909 W. 12th	Fraternal and Social Organizations
Tutti Frutti / Sportsman Bar & Grill	SA01-411	1238-44 Main	Retail Commerce
Commercial Building	SA01-412	1230-36 Main	Retail Commerce
K.H.'s Sports Shop & Apparel	SA01-413	1222 Main	Retail Commerce
Diaz Bros Barbershop	SA01-414	119 E. 13th	Professional Services
Epicentro	SA01-415	123 E. 13th	Retail Commerce
Single family house	SA01-416	1217 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-417	1207 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-418	1210 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Auto Parts Store	SA01-419	801 West 12th Street	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA01-420	1118-42 Redwood Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-421	1119 Pine Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Single family house	SA01-422	1122 Oak Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-423	145 W. 12th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Family Dentistry / Bessler Family Eye Care	SA01-424	1117-1119 Main	Health Care
Vapor Shop/Nebraska Title Co./Sixpence	SA01-425	1122 Main	Retail Commerce
Ron's Barber Shop	SA01-426	1114 Main	Professional Services
Main Street Laundromat	SA01-427	1112 Main	Professional Services
Union Bank / Crist Family Chiropractic	SA01-428	1110 Main	
Single family house	SA01-429	1126 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-430	1132 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-431	229 East 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-432	245 East 12th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-433	306 East 11th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-434	1135 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-435	1111 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-436	1107 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-437	1124 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-438	1035 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-439	1017 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-440	1011 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-441	935 Sycamore Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-442	929 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-443	940 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-444	906 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-445	905 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-446	830 Pine Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-447	830 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-448	815 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-449	821 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-450	809 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-451	824 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-452	841 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-453	825 Forest	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-454	732 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Appendix A: Active Resources

Single family house	SA01-455	729 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-456	743 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-457	644 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-458	644 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-459	620 Linden Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-460	620 Kingwood Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-461	641 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-462	625 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-463	645 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-464	630 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-465	535 Oak Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-466	525 Oak Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-467	241 West 6th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Utility Building	SA01-468	West 5th Street between Norman & Main Avenues	Public Utilities
Single family house	SA01-469	520 Grove	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-470	338 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-471	336 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-472	306 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-473	515 Norman Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-474	305 Main Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial Building	SA01-475	360 Main Avenue	Retail Commerce
Single family house	SA01-476	309 E. 4th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-477	410 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-478	535 E. 5th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-479	432 Hawthorne	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Apt Building Fairchild	SA01-480	NEC 4th & Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Apt Building Faculty	SA01-481	NEC 4th & Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-482	257 Juniper Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-483	142 Ivy	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-484	118 Boswell	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA01-485	125 Country Club Lane	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

DORCHESTER

Single family house	SA03-002	SWC 9th & Colfax	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
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Saline County

Single family house	SA03-010	NWC 9th & Stephens	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-012	SWC 8th & Jefferson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-013	SEC 9th & Jefferson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-014	813 JEFFERSON	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-015	NEC 9th & Jefferson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-018	NWC 11th & Franklin	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial Building	SA03-023	SEC 7th & Franklin	COMMERCE
Bank Building	SA03-025	NWC 7th & Washington	Banking
Commercial Row	SA03-026	E S Wash. Bet 7th & 8th	COMMERCE
Former Telephone Building	SA03-027	NEC 8th & Washington	Telephone Communications
Single family house	SA03-031	SEC 10th & Washington	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-032	1105 Washington Ave	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-033	NEC 10th & Lincoln	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-034	NWC 9th & Lincoln	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-044	1012 Franklin Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-045	912 Stephens Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-046	102 East 10th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-047	106 East 10th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-048	307 West 9th St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-049	108 West 9th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA03-050	703 Stephens Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Post Office	SA03-051	713 Washington Avenue	Federal Government
Single family house	SA03-052	513 Fulton Avenue	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Quonset Huts	SA03-053	604 WEST 9TH STREET	Commercial Properties

DEWITT

St. Augustine Episcopal Church & Hall	SA02-001	NEC York & Quince	Churches
Single family house & Carriage Barn	SA02-003	608 Fillmore	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-004	604 Fillmore	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-011	109 York	Single Family Detached Houses
Municipal Power Building	SA02-012	NWC Railroad & York	Energy

Appendix A: Active Resources

Single family house	SA02-018	NWC Madden & Pear	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-020	NWC Fillmore & Hickory	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house & Barn	SA02-021	NS Lancaster bet. Hickory & Juniper	Farmsteads and Ranches; Dwellings; Barns
Single family house	SA02-022	311 Cherry	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-024	SEC York & Cherry	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-027	106 Fillmore	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-028	203 Fillmore	Mortuaries
Single family house	SA02-031	208 Lancaster	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-034	106 York	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-036	NWC Fillmore & Quince	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-037	109 Concord	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-038	SWC Concord & Fillmore	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-040	112 York	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-043	204 York	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-046	309 Concord	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-047	310 Concord	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-048	NEC York & Catawba	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-049	110 Catawba	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-053	203 Pear	Single Family Detached Houses
DeWitt Elevator	SA02-055	Railroad bet. York & Fillmore	Grain Elevators
Commercial Building	SA02-056	SWC Fillmore & Pear	Commercial Properties
Commercial Building	SA02-059	SEC Catawba & Fillmore	Commercial Properties
Commercial Building	SA02-063	SS Fillmore bet. Concord & Quince	Commercial Properties
Single family house	SA02-064	NWC Chicago and Peach	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-065	402 North Quince Street	Single Family Detached Houses
Water Tower	SA02-066	West Lancaster Avenue between Hickory & Cherry St	Water Towers and Standpipes
Single family house	SA02-067	201 Catawba Street	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-068	106 North Fern Circle Drive	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-069	109 North Hickory Street	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-070	107 North Hickory Street	Single Family Detached Houses

Saline County

Maintenance Building	SA02-071	100 North Hickory Street	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-072	208 West Fillmore Avenue	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-073	110 West Fillmore Avenue	Single Family Detached Houses
Senior Center	SA02-074	202 East Fillmore Avenue	Entertainment Facilities
Post Office	SA02-075	304 E Fillmore Ave	Post Offices
Car Wash	SA02-076	NW corner of East Fillmore Avenue and W Railroad Street	Service Stations
Commercial Building	SA02-077	406 East Fillmore Avenue	Public Utilities
Single family house	SA02-078	209 West Beatrice Avenue	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-079	106 East Beatrice Avenue	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-080	203 York	Single Family Detached Houses
Single family house	SA02-081	510 York	Single Family Detached Houses

FRIEND

Gilbert Library	SA04-002	NWC 2nd & Chestnut	Libraries
Burlington & Northern Depot	SA04-003	North of 1st at Maple	Burlington
Single family house	SA04-004	303 State Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Daisy Queen	SA04-005	1st Street West end of town	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA04-010	NEC 6th & Cedar	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-012	403 Cedar	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-013	218 Cedar	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-015	210 Cedar	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-016	112 Cedar	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Gas Station	SA04-017	SEC 1st Cedar	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA04-023	212 Pine	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
School	SA04-027	W side Maine at 5th	Schooling
St. Joseph Rectory	SA04-028	SWC 4th & Maine	Roman Catholic Church in Nebraska
Single family house	SA04-033	213 Maine	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial Row & Opera House (2nd Story)	SA04-034	SEC 2nd & Maine	Opera Houses Built in Nebraska
Single family house	SA04-035	819 8th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-039	302 Maple	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-041	402 Maple	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-042	412 Maple	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
United Methodist Church	SA04-046	SEC 6th & Maple	United Methodist Church in Nebraska

Single family house	SA04-047	615 6th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-049	NEC 6th & Chestnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-050	503 Chestnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-052	703 4th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-053	311 Chestnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-054	306 Chestnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-056	321 Chestnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-069	621 Chestnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-070	WS Chestnut, south of 6th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-071	703 Maple	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-075	801 Maine	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial building	SA04-077	SWC 1st & Maple	COMMERCE
1st National Bank	SA04-078	NEC 2nd & Maple	Banking
Commercial building	SA04-079	SEC 2nd & Maple	COMMERCE
GARAGE BUILDING	SA04-080	NEC 2nd & Maine	Roads/Highways
Commercial Block	SA04-084	Maple St	Retail Commerce
Industrial Building	SA04-085	North side of 1st Street between Cedar and Walnut Streets	Commercial Properties
Elevator	SA04-086	A St between Main and Maple Streets	Specialized Agricultural
Single family house	SA04-087	115 South Pine Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Community Center	SA04-088	NWC 2 nd and Main Streets	Leisure and Recreation
Single family house	SA04-089	1018 2nd Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Friendship Terrace	SA04-090	1001-1119 2nd Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-091	302 4th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-092	400 South Main Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-093	308 Maple Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-094	409 Cherry Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-095	720 5th St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-096	812 5th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-097	516 South Cherry Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-098	620 6th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-099	702 Maple Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-100	619 South Cherry Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-101	700 Chestnut Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Single family house	SA04-102	958 Maple Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA04-103	964 Maple Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Burley Park	SA04-104	Maple	Leisure and Recreation
Commercial Building	SA04-105	134 Maple	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA04-106	135 Maple	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA04-107	151 Maple	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA04-108	214 Maple	COMMERCE

PLEASANT HILL

Single family house	SA05-004	856-58 County Rd 1625	Schooling
Auto Garage	SA05-005	860 County Rd 1625	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA05-007	860 County Rd 1625	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

SWANTON

Single Family House	SA06-001	1st Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Garage	SA06-002	1st Street	Roads/Highways
Single Family House	SA06-003	Nemaha Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
United Methodist Church	SA06-006	112 Nemaha	Methodism
Single Family House	SA06-007	306 Nemaha	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Auditorium	SA06-009	500 4th Street	Entertainment
Single Family House	SA06-010	402 4th Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single Family House	SA06-012	311 Gage Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single Family House	SA06-018	109 Gage Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single Family House	SA06-019	107 Gage Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Fire Department	SA06-021	402 1st Street	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA06-022	1st Street	COMMERCE
Swanton Downtown	SA06-026	Main Street & 1st	COMMERCE
Swanton Downtown	SA06-027	ES Main bet. 1st & 2nd	COMMERCE
Swanton Downtown	SA06-028	WS Main bet. 1st & 2nd	COMMERCE
Single Family House	SA06-029	213 Main Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single Family House	SA06-030	215 Main Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single Family House	SA06-033	201 Clay	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Ag Building	SA06-036	SWC 1st & Filmore	COMMERCE

Single Family House	SA06-040	400 3rd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single Family House	SA06-041	207 Clay	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

TOBIAS

Single family house	SA07-026	206 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-027	204 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-030	107 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-031	101 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-032	102 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
ZCBJ Quonset	SA07-033	Main Street bet 1st and S. Railroad	CSPS, ZCBJ, and WFLA lodges
Coop Elevator	SA07-034	Main Street bet 1st and S. Railroad	Cooperative Movement; Grain Handling and Storage
Commercial Building	SA07-035	S of 1st on Main Street	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA07-037	WS Main bet. 1st & N. Railroad	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA07-038	SWC 1st & Main	Banking
Commercial Building	SA07-039	N of 1st on Main St - E side	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA07-040	N of 1st on Main St - E side	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA07-041	N of 1st on Main St - E side	COMMERCE
American Legion	SA07-042	S of 2nd on Main St - W side	American Legion
Commercial Building	SA07-043	S of 2nd on Main St - W side	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA07-044	N of 2nd on Main - E side	Local Government
Single family house	SA07-045	302 Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Gas Station	SA07-046	4th and Main Sts	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA07-047	4th and Oak Sts	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial Building	SA07-055	N Railroad Street	COMMERCE
SAKYRT, JOHN, HOUSE	SA07-056	S. Railroad & Walnut	Czech-American Settlement in Nebraska
Industrial Building	SA07-057	Walnut Street	MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
Single family house	SA07-063	S of 2nd on Walnut Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-064	N of 2nd on Walnut Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-065	S of 3rd on Walnut	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-066	403 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Quonset hut	SA07-067	S of 4th on Elm Street	Commercial Properties
Single family house	SA07-068	207 Elm Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Auto Garage	SA07-069	E of Elm on 2nd Street	Roads/Highways
Water Tower	SA07-070	Main Street	Water Supplies
Single family house	SA07-071	102 Walnut Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-072	102 Oak Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Quonset hut	SA07-073	Main Street bet N. Railroad and S. Railroad	Commercial Properties
Single family house	SA07-074	S. Railroad, W of Main St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA07-075	SWC Main & S. 1st	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

WESTERN

Commercial Buildings	SA08-000	ES West Av between Sycamore & Sumner	
Plainview Cemetery	SA08-001	West Avenue, north edge of town	RELIGION
Feed Elevator	SA08-006	SWC West & S. Railroad	Grain Handling and Storage
Single family house	SA08-007	NEC Sumner & Bradshaw	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-008	NWC Sumner & Bradshaw	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-009	SWC Sumner & Bradshaw	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
St. John's Evangelical & Reformed Church of Christ	SA08-012	NWC Bradshaw & Spruce	Other Protestant Faiths
Single family house	SA08-016	SWC 1st & Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-017	SEC 1st & East	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Western High School Gymnasium	SA08-019	WS Butler bet. Spruce & 1st	Schooling
Single family house	SA08-021	SWC Butler & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-023	NEC Butler & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-025	NS Sumac bet. Butler & Bradshaw	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-026	SWC Sycamore & Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-027	SEC Sycamore & Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-029	SWC Sumner & Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-030	SS Sumner bet. Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Single family house	SA08-031	SS Sumner bet. Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-032	NWC Sumner & Butler	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-033	WS Butler bet. Sumner & Short	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-034	WS Butler bet. Sumner & Short	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-035	106 N BUTLER	German Methodist Church in Nebraska
Single family house	SA08-038	NEC East & Sumner	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Methodist Episcopal Church	SA08-040	SWC East & Sycamore	Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska
Single family house	SA08-041	WS East bet. Sumac & Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-042	WS East bet. Sumac & Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-043	NEC East & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-044	NWC East & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
School	SA08-049	SS Spruce bet. East & Butler	Schooling
Single family house	SA08-053	ES West bet. Sumac & Spruce	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-056	SWC West & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-057	NWC West & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-058	ES West bet. Sumac & Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-059	SWC West & Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
First Baptist Church	SA08-060	SEC West & Sycamore	Baptist Church in Nebraska
Gas Station/ Garage	SA08-062	NEC West & Sycamore	Roads/Highways
Commercial building	SA08-063	ES West bet. Sycamore & Sumner	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA08-065	ES West bet. Sycamore & Sumner	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA08-067	SWC West & Sumner	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA08-068	SEC West & Sumner	COMMERCE
Post Office	SA08-069	NEC WEST AVE & SUMMER	Postal Communication
Commercial building	SA08-070	ES West bet. Sumner & Short	Fraternal and Social Organizations
First State Bank	SA08-071	ES West bet. Sumner & Short	Banking
Commercial building	SA08-072	ES West bet. Sumner & Short	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA08-075	NEC West & Sumner	COMMERCE
Commercial building	SA08-076	SWC East & Sumner	COMMERCE
Single family house	SA08-080	WS Burchard bet. Sumner & S. Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-081	WS Burchard bet. Sumner & S. Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Single family house	SA08-082	NWC Burchard & Sumner	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-083	ES Burchard bet. Sumner & S. Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-086	ES Burchard bet. Sycamore & Sumner	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-088	WS Burchard bet. Sycamore & Sumner	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-091	WS Burchard bet. Sycamore & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-095	SS Sumac bet. West & Burchard	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-097	210 West Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-099	NWC Buffalo & Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-101	SEC Buffalo & Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-103	WS Buffalo bet. Sumner & Sycamore	RELIGION
Single family house	SA08-104	WS Buffalo bet. Sumner & Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-107	ES Buffalo bet. Sumner & S. Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-109	WS Buffalo bet. Sumner & S. Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-110	ES Buffalo bet. Sumner & S. Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-115	NS Sycamore bet. Stout & Buffalo	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-116	NS Sycamore bet. Stout & Buffalo	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-117	NEC Sumner & Stevens	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial; American Legion	SA08-121	101 S West Ave	Fraternal and Social Organizations
Commercial	SA08-122	113 N West Ave	Retail Commerce
Gas Station	SA08-124	206 N West Ave	Roads/Highways
Auto	SA08-125	109 N West Ave	Roads/Highways
Fire Station	SA08-126	107 N West Ave	Local Government
KT's Market	SA08-127	111 S West Ave	Retail Commerce
Single family house	SA08-128	109 N East Ave	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-129	302 E Sumner	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-130	310 W Sycamore	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-131	306 W Sumac	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Funeral Home	SA08-132	208 W Sumac	
Single family house	SA08-133	308 S Bradshaw	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA08-134	304 E First Street	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Quonset Hut	SA08-135	NWC NW Ave & S Railroad St	Commercial Properties

WILBER

Single family house	SA09-001	NE corner of High & 1st	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-002	205 N Franklin	Czech-American Settlement in Nebraska
Single family house	SA09-006	105 Douglas	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-014	223 High	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Police Station	SA09-015	225 South High Street	Local Government
Courthouse	SA09-016	215 South Court Street	County Government
Single family house	SA09-018	103 Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-020	124 Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-029	324 N. Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-030	304 N. Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-032	203 N. Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Hotel Wilber	SA09-034	2nd & Wilson	Retail Commerce in the Central Plains Region
Single family house	SA09-039	405 W. 3rd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Median strip	SA09-041	Between Court and School on 4th	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA09-042	605 S. School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-047	N of 5th & Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-053	123 7th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-054	724 Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Water Works	SA09-058	405 South Main Street	Public Utilities: Water Supplies
Commercial Building	SA09-059	3rd Bet Main and School	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA09-060	302 S Wilson	COMMERCE
Klondike Laundry/Farm Bureau Financial Services	SA09-061	111-113 3rd	COMMERCE
City Police	SA09-062		Banking
Western United Mutual Insurance	SA09-063	NS 3rd	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA09-064	now part of 120 W 3rd	COMMERCE
Sokol Pavilion	SA09-065	317-319 S Wilson	Czech-American Settlement in Nebraska
Single family house	SA09-068	524 Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-071	E of 1st & OK	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-073	324 E 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

ST. WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH III	SA09-078	N END OF WILSON	Czech-American Settlement in Nebraska
KARPISEK MARKET	SA09-079	SS MAIN W OF HWY 103	Czech-American Settlement in Nebraska
Single family house	SA09-080	503 N Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-081	513 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-082	519 N Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-083	524 N Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-084	439 N Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-085	440 N Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-086	427 N Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-087	427 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-088	420 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-089	416 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-090	408 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-091	403 N Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-092	408 N Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-093	415 N Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-094	323 N Franklin	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-095	318 N Railroad	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-096	314 N Ames	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-097	724 W Ash	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-098	614 W Ash	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-099	305 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-100	311 N Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-101	304 N Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-102	221 N Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-103	211 N High	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-104	208 N Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-105	215 N Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-106	220 N Ames	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Single family house	SA09-107	123 N Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-108	122 N Ames	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-109	624 E 1st	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-110	111 N High	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-111	116 N Court	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-112	316 W 1st	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-113	116 N Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-114	108 N Ames	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-115	620 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-116	424 E 1st	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Bridge	SA09-117	E 1st between OK Street & Big Blue River	Roads/Highways
Single family house	SA09-118	103 S High	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-119	107 S High	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-120	113 S High	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-121	604 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-122	420 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-123	404 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-124	307 W 1st	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-125	103 S Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-126	106 S Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-127	102 S Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-128	103 S Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-129	316 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-130	222 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-131	218 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-132	210 W 2nd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-133	124 S Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-134	423 Douglas	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
First Evangelical Lutheran Church	SA09-135	204 S School	Lutheranism

Saline County

Single family house	SA09-136	203 N Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Bowling Alley	SA09-137	205 S Main	Leisure and Recreation
Gas Station	SA09-138	Main E side btw 2nd & 3rd	Roads/Highways
Wilber Feed Mill	SA09-139	NE corner S Main & E 3rd	Milling
Single family house	SA09-140	305 S Shimerda	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-141	315 S Shimerda	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-142	323 S Shimerda St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-143	603 W 3rd St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Dvrocek Memorial Library	SA09-144	419 West 3rd Street	Local Government
Single family house	SA09-145	315 School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Commercial Building	SA09-146	324 W 3rd	COMMERCE
Commercial Building	SA09-147	304 W 3rd	COMMERCE
U.S. Post Office	SA09-148	224 W 3rd	Postal Communication
Lennox	SA09-149	220 W 3rd	COMMERCE
Frame House	SA09-150	218 W 3rd	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Fellowship Hall	SA09-151	214 W 3rd	COMMERCE
Sit n Bull	SA09-152	210 W 3rd	Leisure and Recreation
Tease and Curl Shop	SA09-153	208 W 3rd	Professional Services
Wilber Trading Post	SA09-154	206 W 3rd	Retail Commerce
Victoria's Garden & Formal Wear	SA09-155	204 W 3rd	Retail Commerce
Hair Do	SA09-156	217 S Wilson	Professional Services
Barnas Drug, Inc.	SA09-157	124 W 3rd	Retail Commerce
Commercial Building	SA09-158	now part of 124 W 3rd	COMMERCE
Gary's Bar & Grill	SA09-159	120 W 3rd	Leisure and Recreation
Wilber Czech Museum	SA09-160	102 W 3rd St	Cultural History Museums
Front Gable Building	SA09-161	311 W 3rd	COMMERCE
All Tune Entertainment	SA09-162	307 W 3rd	COMMERCE
Wilber Manufacturing	SA09-163	301 W 3rd	Retail Commerce
Wilber Chiropractic	SA09-164	215 W 3rd	Health Care
Czech'erd Flag Bar	SA09-165	207 W 3rd	Leisure and Recreation
First State Bank Main Building	SA09-166	203 W 3rd	Banking
Wilber Meat Market	SA09-167	119 W 3rd	Retail Commerce
Fox Hole Tavern	SA09-168	117 W 3rd	Leisure and Recreation
Commercial Building	SA09-169	103-107 W 3rd St	COMMERCE
First State Bank	SA09-170	315 S Wilson	Banking
Masonic Lodge	SA09-171	325 S Wilson	Services (Benevolent) Associations

Shoe Repair	SA09-172	324 S Railroad St	Professional Services
Single family house	SA09-173	415 3rd St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-174	305 S East	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-175	323 S OK	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-176	316 W 4th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-177	203 W 4th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Fire Station	SA09-178	409 South Main Street	Local Government
Single family house	SA09-179	423 N School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
American Legion	SA09-180	409 South Main Street	Services (Benevolent) Associations
Single family house	SA09-181	415 4th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-182	516 S School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-183	503 S Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-184	515 SHarris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-185	523 S Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-186	623 W 7th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-187	512 W 7th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-188	508 W 7th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-189	610 S School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-190	624 S School	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-191	603 S Harris	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-192	209 W 6th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-193	616 S Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-194	624 S Railroad St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-195	303 E 7th St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-196	602 S East St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-197	415 W 7th	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-198	212 W 8th St	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Single family house	SA09-199	824 S. Wilson	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
Legion Memorial Park	SA09-200	9th & School	Leisure and Recreation
Single family house	SA09-201	703 Main	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement

Saline County

Single family house	SA09-202	504 E. Third	Dwelling in Dispersed and Clustered Settlement
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APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY

Art Moderne Style (circa 1930-1950). An architectural style featuring industrial technology and streamlined simplicity. Features include smooth, rounded corners, horizontal massing, details in concrete, glass block, aluminum, and stainless steel.

Association. Link of a historic property with a historic event, activity, or person. Also, the quality of integrity through which a historic property is linked to a particular past time and place.

Balloon frame. A type of support for wood-frame buildings that utilizes vertical studs that extend the full height of the wall and floor joists fastened to the studs with nails. Balloon-frame buildings in Nebraska became popular with the expansion of the railroad when milled lumber could be shipped to the plains for relatively low cost.

Bay window. A decorative window that projects out from the flat surface of an exterior wall, often polygonal in design. Bay windows are often seen on Queen Anne style buildings.

Boom-Town (circa 1850-1880). See false-front.

Brackets. Support members used under overhanging eaves of a roof, usually decorative in nature.

Building. A building is erected to house activities performed by people.

Bungalow/Craftsman Style (circa 1890-1940). An architectural style characterized by overhanging eaves, modest size, open porches with large piers and low-pitched roofs.

Circa, Ca., or c. At, in, or of approximately, used especially with dates.

Clapboard. Relatively long, thin boards that have a thick lower edge and a feathered, or tapered upper edge. The shape of the boards permits them to be overlapped horizontally. Clapboard is most commonly used as cladding material on simply detailed houses and their secondary buildings.

Colonial Revival (circa 1900-1940). An architectural style that relies heavily on a simple, classically derived entrance to indicate the style's architectural heritage. Colonial Revival houses often feature symmetrical forms and elevations, side gable roofs with dormers, columns, and shutters.

Column. A circular or square vertical support member.

Contemporary (circa 1950-1980). A style that relies on minimal architectural detail and harmony with nature, through the integration of the building into the landscape. Contemporary architecture often features large expanses of glass, geometrical and angular shapes, and flat roofs. In some cases, Contemporary houses are modified Ranch and Split-level forms.

Contributing (National Register definition). A building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities for which a property is significant. The resource

was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity, or is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Contributing (NeHBS definition). A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that meets the NeHBS criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, and was present during the period of significance. A property that contributes to the NeHBS is generally evaluated with less strictness than for an individual listing on the National Register, yet more strictness than a building which may “contribute” to a proposed National Register district.

Cross-Gable (circa 1860-1910). A common building form typically two stories and square in plan with two identical roofs whose ridges intersect to produce a cruciform.

Design. Quality of integrity applying to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

Dormer. A vertical window projecting from the roof. Variations of dormer types can be based on the dormer’s roof form, for example shed dormer, gable dormers, and hipped dormers.

Dutch Colonial Revival Style (circa 1900-1940). A residential architectural style based on the more formal Georgian Revival style. This style is identified by its gambrel roof and symmetrical facade.

Eclectic Style (circa 1890-1910). An eclectic building displays a combination of architectural elements from various styles. It commonly resulted when a house designed in one architectural style was remodeled into another.

Elevation. Any single side of a building or structure.

Eligible. Properties that meet the National Park Service Criteria for nomination and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Evaluation. Process by which the significance and integrity of a historic property are judged and eligibility for National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listing is determined.

Extant. Still standing or existing (as in a building, structure, site, and/or object).

False-front (circa 1850-1880). A common building form, which is typically a one-and-one-half story front gable frame building with a square facade that extends vertically in front of the front-facing gable. This gives an entering visitor the sense of approaching a larger building. This form is often used in the construction of a first-generation commercial building, thus is also known as “boom-town.”

Feeling. Quality of integrity through which a historic property evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of past time and place.

Fenestration. The arrangement of windows and other exterior openings on a building.

Foursquare Style (circa 1900-1930). Popularized by mail-order catalogues and speculative builders in the early twentieth century, this style is typified by its box-like massing, two-stories, hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, central dormers, and one-story porch spanning the front facade.

Front Gable (circa 1860-1910). The common form of a building, generally a house, in which the triangular end of the roof faces the street.

Gable. The vertical triangular end of a building from cornice or eaves to ridge.

Gabled Ell (circa 1860-1910). The common form of a building, generally a house, in which two gabled wings are perpendicular to one another in order to form an "L"-shaped plan.

Gable end. The triangular end of an exterior wall.

Gable roof. A roof type formed by the meeting of two sloping roof surfaces.

Gambrel roof. A roof type with two slopes on each side.

High Victorian Gothic (circa 1865-1900). This architectural style drew upon varied European medieval sources and employed pointed arches and polychromatic details. The heavier detailing and more complex massing made this style popular for public and institutional buildings.

Hipped roof. A roof type formed by the meeting of four sloping roof surfaces.

Historic context. The concept used to group related historic properties based upon a theme, a chronological period, and/or a geographic area.

Integrity. Authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic period. (See Chapter 3, Research Design.)

Italianate Style (circa 1870-1890). A popular style for houses, these square, rectangular, or L-shaped, two-story buildings have low-pitched, hip roofs, with wide eaves usually supported by heavy brackets, tall narrow windows, and front porches. In some cases, the roof may be topped with a cupola.

Keystone. A wedge-shaped piece at the crown of an arch that locks the other pieces in place. It is seen most often over arched doors and window openings and is sometimes of a different material than the opening itself.

Late Gothic Revival Style (circa 1880-1920). A later version of the Gothic style, these buildings are generally larger and use heavy masonry construction. In churches, masonry is sometimes used throughout the structure.

The pointed-arch window openings remain a key feature; however, designs are more subdued than those of the earlier period.

Location. Quality of integrity retained by a historic property existing in the same place as it did during the period of significance.

Materials. Quality of integrity applying to the physical elements that were combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

Mediterranean Revival (circa 1900-1940). These buildings are characterized by flat wall surfaces, often plastered, broken by a series of arches with terra cotta, plaster, or tile ornamentation. Details such as red tile roofs and heavy brackets are also commonly seen.

Minimal Traditional (circa 1935-1950). Loosely based on the Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival style, Minimal Traditional homes are small, unadorned cottage-sized structures characterized by a side gable form with shallow eaves and a front-gable entry vestibule.

Multiple Property Nomination. The National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property documentation form nominates groups of related significant properties. The themes, trends, and patterns of history shared by the properties are organized into historic contexts. Property types that represent those historic contexts are defined within the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The official federal list of districts, buildings, sites, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that are important in the prehistory or history of their community, state, or nation. The program is administered through the National Park Service by way of State Historic Preservation Offices (see Chapter 1, Introduction of this report).

National Register of Historic Places Criteria. Established criteria for evaluating the eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register. See Chapter 3, Research Design.

Neo-Classical Style (circa 1900-1920). An architectural style characterized by a symmetrical facade and usually includes a pediment portico with classical columns.

Noncontributing (National Register definition). A building, site, structure, or object that does not add to the historic architectural qualities or historic associations for which a property is significant. The resource was not present during the period of significance; does not relate to the documented significance of the property; or due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity nor is capable of yielding important information about the period.

Noncontributing (NeHBS definition). A building, site, structure, object, or collection of buildings such as a farmstead that does not meet the NeHBS criteria of integrity, historic association, historic architectural qualities, or was not present during the period of significance. Noncontributing properties are not generally entered into, nor kept in, the NeHBS inventory; however, exceptions do exist.

Object. An artistic, simple, and/or small-scale construction not identified as a building or structure; i.e. historic signs, markers, and monuments.

One-story Cube (circa 1870-1930). The common form of a house, which is one-story and box-like in massing. Features generally include a low-hipped roof, a full front porch recessed under the roof, little ornamentation, and simple cladding, such as clapboard, brick, or stucco. Also known as a Prairie Cube.

Period of Significance. Span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the National Register criteria.

Pony truss bridge (circa 1880-1920). A low iron or steel truss, approximately 5 to 7 feet in height, located alongside and above the roadway surface. Pony truss bridges often range in span lengths of 20 to 100 feet.

Portico. A covered walk or porch supported by columns or pillars.

Potentially eligible. Properties that may be eligible for listing on the National Register pending further research and investigation.

Property. A building, site, structure, and/or object situated within a delineated boundary.

Property type. A classification for a building, structure, site, or object based on its historic use or function.

Queen Anne Style (circa 1880-1900). A style that enjoyed widespread popularity, particularly in the eastern portion of Nebraska. These houses are typically two stories tall, have asymmetrical facades, and steeply pitched rooflines of irregular shape. Characteristics include a variety of surface textures on walls, prominent towers, tall chimneys, and porches with gingerbread trim.

Ranch (circa 1945-1970). An architectural form that was the dominant postwar house type throughout the country. These houses have a one-story elongated main mass, asymmetrical facade, and low-pitched roof with wide eaves. Additional characteristic features include a large picture window on the facade, elevated windows, integrated planters, wrought-iron porch supports, wide chimneys, roof cutouts, and an attached garage or carport.

Setting. Quality of integrity applying to the physical environment of a historic property.

Shed roof. A roof consisting of one inclined plane.

Side Gable (circa 1860-1940). The common form of a building, generally a house, in which the gable end of the roof is perpendicular to the street.

Significance. Importance of a historic property as defined by the National Register criteria in one or more areas of significance.

Site. The location of a prehistoric or historic event.

Spanish Colonial Revival Style (circa 1900-1920). These buildings, which have a southwestern flavor, show masonry construction usually covered with plaster or stucco, red clay tiled hipped roofs, and arcaded porches. Some facades are enriched with curvilinear and decorated roof lines.

Structure. Practical constructions not used to shelter human activities.

Split-level (circa 1955-1975). A house form that is characterized by a one-story main mass resting on a raised foundation and connected to a two-story mass partially below grade, thus resulting in

three floor levels of divided living space. Influenced by the Ranch, Split-level houses often feature horizontal lines, low-pitched roofs, overhanging eaves, and attached garages.

Stucco. A material usually made of Portland cement, sand, and a small percentage of lime and applied in a plastic state to form a hard covering for exterior walls.

Tudor Revival Style (circa 1920-1940). A style that reflects a blend of a variety of elements from late English medieval styles. It is identified by steep gables, half-timbering, and mixes of stone, stucco, and wood.

Turret. A little tower that is an ornamental structure and projects at an angle from a larger structure.

Two-story Cube (circa 1860-1890). The common form, generally for a house, which is a two-story building, box-like in massing, with a hipped roof, near absence of surface ornament, and simple exterior cladding such as brick, clapboard, or stucco.

Workmanship. Quality of integrity applying to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture, people, or artisan.